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Daily News - Miner



# Interior & Arctic Alaska VISITORS GUIDE

No. 1, 1985

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(Photos by Joe Correia)

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(News-Miner file photo)

# Welcome to Alaska!

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- Restaurant
- Groceries
- Gift Shop
- Fishing & Hunting Licenses
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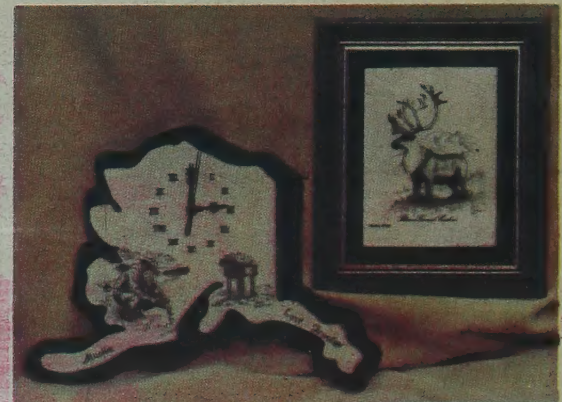
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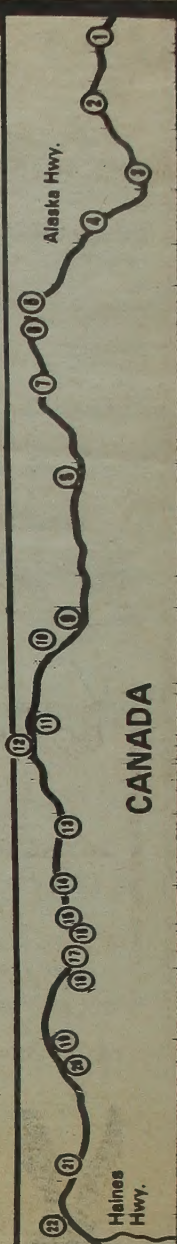
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Mile 94.5, KM 87.7
7. THE SHEPHERD'S INN  
Mile 71.7, KM 115.4
8. MAE'S KITCHEN  
Mile 144.5, KM 232.5
9. SUMMIT ESSO SERVICE  
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10. ROCKY MOUNTAIN MOTEL  
Mile 397, KM 638.9
11. HIGHLAND GLEN  
Muncho Lake—Mile 462, KM 743.5
12. J&H WILDERNESS RESORT  
KM 745.8
13. LIARD RIVER LODGE  
Mile 496, KM 804 B.C.
14. COLE RIVER LODGE  
Mile 533, KM 866.6
15. YUKON ESSO SERVICE  
Mile 632, KM 1017.1 Watson Lake B.C.
16. HUSKY CAMPGROUND SERVICES  
Mile 632.5, Watson Lake Y.T.
17. GREAT DIVIDE LODGE  
Mile 725
18. RANCHERO LODGE  
KM 1143 Y.T.
19. TERI-TORI CAMPER & GULF STATION  
Mile 797, KM 1282.5 Y.T.
20. TERI-TORI PARK  
Mile 804 Tealin Y.T.
21. PORTER CREEK TEXACO  
Mile 922, KM 1433.8 Whitehorse Y.T.
22. BREWSTERS  
Mile 1016, KM 1635.1 Haines Junction
23. MCINTOSH LODGE  
Mile 1022, KM 1655 Y.T.
24. TALBOT ARMS MOTEL & GAS  
Mile 1083, KM 1742.9 Y.T.
25. KODERN GULF SERVICES  
Mile 1167, KM 1877.4
26. WHITE RIVER LODGE  
Mile 1169, KM 1880
27. BEAVER CREEK  
Mile 1202, KM 1934.4 Y.T.
28. U.S. CUSTOMS  
Mile 1221.8, KM 1968.3
29. DAWSON CITY, Y.T. Canada  
Black Mile's  
Klondike Motors LTF  
Klondike Visitors Assoc.  
Chamber of Commerce/Yukon  
Government Information Center
30. TOK-MILE 1314  
Gateway Motel • Don's Store  
Tate's Freez • Tok Lodge  
International Cabana  
Childs North Star  
Tok Saveway • Frontier Foods  
Willard's Auto Electric  
De Celia's Beauty Shop  
Shamrock Hardware
31. DUFFY'S TAVERN
32. GAKONA LODGE & TRADING POST
33. GAKONA JUNCTION VILLAGE
34. GLENNALLEN  
Tate's Freez  
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Glennallen Hobby Shop  
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Valley Center Auto Parts  
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35. COPPER CENTER  
Copper Center Lodge  
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36. VALDEZ  
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Valdez Motel & Pipeline Club  
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Wodlinger Valdez Drug & Photo  
Hobby Hut  
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Sea Otter Park  
Totem Inn  
Rainbow Lodge
37. ALASKA INTERIOR TOURS (Paxson)
38. WINDY COURT
39. DELTA JUNCTION  
C's Motel  
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Trophy Lodge  
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40. BLACK RAPIDS LODGE, Mile 227
41. ALASKA 6 MOTEL
42. RICHARDSON ROADHOUSE
43. MOOSE CREEK LODGE
44. DELTANA OUTFITTERS
45. NORTH POLE—Mile 1504  
KINP Radio Station  
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46. CHENA HOT SPRINGS RESORT
47. ARCTIC CIRCLE HOT SPRINGS RESORT
48. CRIPPLE CREEK RESORT
49. NENANA  
Sweet's Place  
Sweet's & Treats  
Nenana Fuel Co.  
Tripp Gift Shop  
"A" Frame Chevron Store  
Hookers Cafe
50. HAWKINS WAREHOUSE
51. ROSCOES ROADHOUSE
52. ROCHESTER LODGE
53. HEALY ROADHOUSE
54. DENALI WILDERNESS ADVENTURES
55. MCKINLEY RAFT TOURS
56. IGLOO SERVICE





# Old Alaska Highway a dusty memory

By **DON NELSON**  
Correspondent

After 121 trips over the Alaska Highway, the obvious comment from just about everyone is, "I bet you know that highway by heart?" My initial reply is that from my first trip in 1951 to my last this year the highway has changed so dramatically that often it's difficult to recognize where you're at.

The highway used to be narrow and very winding with course gravel and, particularly in the summer, a tremendous amount of dust. The hills were very short and often steep. In the old days the traveler would be wise to carry extra tires, some spare parts, a can or two of extra gas and have some way to plug a hole in the gas tank. In winter, emergency gear for cold weather travel and a small campstove with some grub would have

been helpful items to carry. You could expect to take from five to seven days to travel the highway alone, driving many hours in a day. I've traveled 20 hours and only gone a few miles during breakup.

But today many parts of the Alaska Highway are like a super highway—paved, except for 200 to 300 miles of gravel which is relocation and construction. In the spring, because of the type of pavement, it will experience breakup, but the Canada highway department is quick to make minor repairs. The only areas which remind one of the old days are the reconstruction sites consisting of dirt and gravel, mud and ruts.

Usually the Canadian contractors will have a grader available for use in crossing over the construction area. You'll have a different experience in Canada than in the states because usually you can travel on the construction part.

One good spare tire is all you'd need and unless you want to camp, you can travel lightly because of the abundance of grocery stores, truck stops and camping areas, some of which even have kindling wood for a fire. I still would recommend emergency gear in the winter because some of the accommodations close.

The accommodations have changed perhaps the most drama-

tically. Restaurants were few and limited; you walked the path to the outhouse; and the gas stations were few and far between. There used to be a sign at Fort Nelson saying, "100 miles to the next gas station." Now stations are about 50 miles or less apart, with many areas having more than one. Hotels and motels are plentiful.

The food is usually good with few exceptions. The exceptions usually are because of lack of help—then it's soup and sandwiches. Now you can make the trip from Dawson to Fairbanks in two days.

Don Nelson is president and director of KJNP AM-FM-TV at North Pole and is a 30-year resident of Alaska.

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**HIGHWAY TRAVEL—**  
The Alaska Highway used to be narrow and very winding with course gravel and a tremendous

amount of dust. The hills were very short and often steep. But today many parts of the Alaska Highway are like a super highway—paved, except for 200 to 300 miles of gravel which is relocation and construction. At right, the start of the world-famous highway in Dawson Creek, Alberta.

(News-Miner file photos)

**DeCelia's BEAUTY SHOP**  
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**TOK**

Map showing locations in Tok, Alaska:

- Alaska State Tourism Center
- Child's Northstar
- Gateway Motel
- DeCelia's Beauty Shop
- Willard's Auto Electric
- Don's Store
- Shamrock Hardware
- Duffy's Tavern
- Tastee Freez
- K. Alaska State Tourism Center
- International Cabana
- M. Tok Lodge

Other landmarks: To Dot Lake, Delta Jct, 107 miles, Alaska Hwy., Fairbanks, 206 miles, GAKONA JUNCTION, Nabesna Rd.

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# Know where to find those flowers, berries

By SHERRY SIMPSON  
Staff Writer

Visitors to Alaska are usually awed by the scenery or impressed by the wildlife, but don't overlook the infinite variety of colorful and delicate flowers and the juicy, delicious berries that grow in the Interior.

Many Alaskan flowering plants grow in unlikely places. The best way to enjoy their beauty is to look for them in their usual habitat and then leave them where they are.

The most obvious flower to look for is the forget-me-not, Alaska's state flower. These tiny blue blooms grow in clusters of flowers. Look in alpine meadows and along streams.

The blazing pink of fireweed is hard to miss, especially later in the summer. Some fireweed plants are white. These are commonly found just about anywhere: meadows, forests, gravel bars and especially in burn areas. Besides providing natural scenery, these plants can double as greens for your salad—all parts are edible.

Lupine are familiar flowers and are often seen along highways. These are alpine flowers, but can also be found along sandbars and slopes. The color varies, although a delicate lavender is common.

The Alaska poppies are bright splotches of color that grow in gravelly soil. Wild iris, or wild flag, is another flower that prefers gravelled but moist places. Look in subalpine meadows, too.

The graceful Western columbine also flourishes in moist places, such as along riverbanks or in damp forest.

Dwarf or Arctic larkspur is a pretty but poisonous plant often found on mountain slopes and tundra. Some species are but a few inches tall. The flowers are purplish-blue and resemble star-shaped bells.

The tundra rose is not too picky about where it lives. Look in forests and meadows for this single yellow rose, which grows on a shrub.

Later in the season, you can imitate the bears and enjoy the berries.

August is the best time to arm yourself with buckets, pails or cans, and lots of mosquito repellent before searching in thickets, forests and slopes for wild fruits. Even if you can't follow the example of many Alaskans and cook them into jams and jellies, gift shops often have fruit jellies for sale.

A warning or two: Before heading off into the wilderness for a little berry-picking, review cautionary guidelines for sharing the outdoors with the wildlife. Also, don't eat any berries without positive

proof that they are edible. Some Alaskan berries are poisonous.

Here are some favorite berries as described in "Alaska Wild Berry Guide and Cookbook," and "Cooking Alaskan."

**Red Raspberry** is a woody shrub that grows wild in thickets and on the edge of forests. The fruit appears in late July and August and generally begins ripening the week before Labor Day. These delicious berries are ripe when deep red. The fruit should be firm and juicy.

**Blueberries** are practically a staple in Alaska. Though everyone seems to have their own secret patch, look for these in the understory of spruce forests or on the tundra. Forest clearings are likely spots, too. There are really two species in the state, but all you need to know is that they both ripen in mid- or late July and August.

**Cranberries** are your all-around edible berry. Lowbush cranberry is a creeping shrub usually less than 6 inches high. Look just about anywhere for these gems—tundra, thickets, forest and slopes. These

are best picked right after the first frost, but they keep well on the bush until early spring. Bog cranberries grow best in soggy places, such as moss and muskeg.

**Highbush cranberries** grow on shrubs as high as 8 or 10 feet. These are waxy red or orange-red berries with a single seed. They are best as an accompaniment to wild game, or in jelly and chutney. Gather them before they completely ripen for best results.

**Rosehips** can be used almost any time of year, but they are usually the plumpest and reddest near Labor Day. These are good in fruit leathers, jams, jellies, pies or brewed into tea. The rose petals can be made into honey, sprinkled in salads or candied. Collect them just after the morning dew has evaporated.

**Mossberries**, also known as crowberries and blackberries, are at their best combined with other berries. These shiny berries ripen in August and can be found on the tundra, muskeg, mountains slopes and edge of forests.



Wild flowers are just that, and they grow anywhere.



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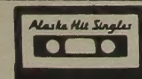
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# There's a lot going on in Copper River area

## The Valdez Vanguard

VALDEZ—Traveling south from Fairbanks on the Richardson Highway toward Valdez, travelers will go through Copper River country—Glennallen and Copper Center—and will find great scenery, fishing and camping.

About 15 miles before reaching Glennallen visitors will be near a good spot along the Gulkana River to stop and pull out the fishing gear. Fishermen usually fish for king and red salmon from this part of the river. Grayling fishing also is available.

River frontage from the mouth of the river is owned and maintained by the Ahtna Indians who charge a minimum camping and fishing fee. Permits are sold at the Ahtna Inc. offices, Mile 104.5 of the Richardson Highway.

Of the approximately 2,700 people living in the Copper River Basin, a quarter are Ahtna Indians. Copper Center, about 10 miles south of Glennallen on the Richardson Highway, is where many Ahtna

Indians live and work.

If you're in the area on the Fourth of July, take part in the Glennallen festivities.

While traveling south from Glennallen on the Richardson, visitors shouldn't miss the majestic Wrangell Mountains visible to the east. The range is the largest concentration of peaks over 14,500 feet in the U.S. Most noticeable from the highway are Mount Drum, Mount Sanford and Mount Wrangell. They are part of a volcanic chain and on close inspection fumaroles can often be seen coming off Mount Wrangell at times.

Continuing south, at about Mile 82 of the Richardson, visitors can turn east along the Edgerton Highway to head into copper country. About 35 miles in, the little town of Chitina can be found. Chitina, located on the Copper River where the railroad turned east to Kennecott and McCarthy, was once a booming outfitting town. Nowadays it's a popular spot to watch dipnetters try to catch salmon.



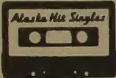
The little town of Chitina, located on the Copper River, was once a booming outfitting town. Nowadays it's a popular spot to watch dipnetters try to catch salmon.

(News-Miner photo)

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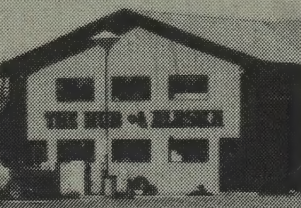
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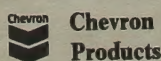
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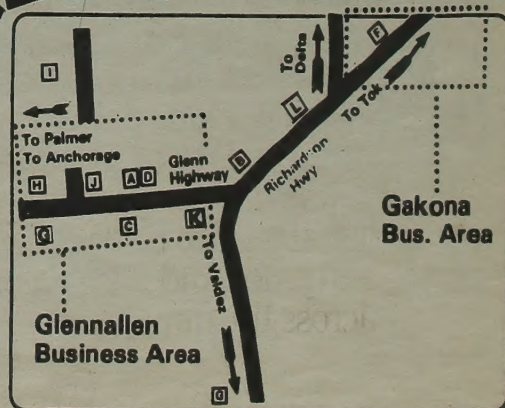
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# New Valdez is small but vital community

## The Valdez Vanguard

VALDEZ—About 360 miles south of Fairbanks at the end of the Richardson Highway, and the 800-mile trans-Alaska oil pipeline, lies Valdez (pronounced VAL-DEEZ)—a land of waterfalls, majestic Chugach Mountains a mile high and the deep waters of Prince William Sound.

City limits stretch from the sound to 18 miles up the Richardson Highway, encompassing 275 square miles of land. The land includes the Lowe River, a popular whitewater rafting river and scenic Keystone Canyon with waterfalls tumbling down next to the highway.

Valdez was once known as the Gateway to the Interior, starting with goldminers crossing Valdez Glacier to get up to the Klondike fields for truckers a few decades ago.

The devastating 1964 earthquake, which measures 9.2 on the revised tabulations, destroyed the community. A valiant relocation took place and now Valdez is a small, but vital community boasting a modern \$7 million civic center, \$53 million container terminal housing the world's largest floating dock and the world's first microwave landing system at the airport.

Visitors to Valdez usually enjoy taking part in the silver salmon derby in August. Last year the derby's 32-year record was broken when a silver tipped the scales at 20 pounds, 14 ounces. Top prize for the biggest coho—another name for silver salmon—will be \$10,000.

Fishing for the silvers is done in the sound, near the town. Charter fishing trips are available from many locals.

May 18-27 the Valdez Chamber of Commerce will host the town's first halibut derby. For more information contact the chamber at 835-2330.

An especially fun time to visit is during the annual Gold Rush Days celebration. This year the event will run Aug. 7-11. Locals dress up and celebrate the late 1800s and early 1900s. Be careful, you might get put in the hoosegow for some funny violation and have to travel around town in the colorful jail.

Another attraction lies about 25 miles west of Valdez in Prince William Sound, the Columbia Glacier. Scientists have said it has begun its rapid retreat in which it is expected to recede about 22 miles in the next 20 to 50 years. Several boat operators in Valdez can take visitors up close so they can see and hear icebergs calving. Other operators offer scenic flights above the glacier or other points of town.

Another attraction is the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. Marine Terminal, where the oil from the North Slope is pumped aboard tankers heading to the Lower 48.

Visitors also are welcome to visit the Valdez Fisheries Development Association hatchery on their way to the terminal. There is a walking tour, guided by signs, to help visitors make their way around the salmon hatchery.

Just across Dayville Road is the Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric facility. A nice hiking trail was put in by the cooperative to give walkers a chance to stretch their legs and see Solomon Gulch from another angle.

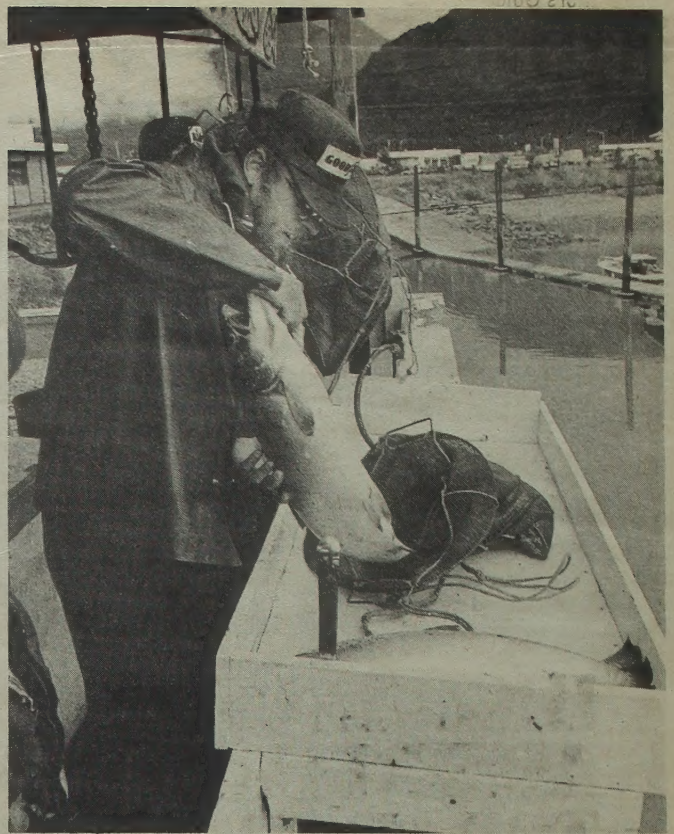
For those more adventurous souls, kayaking or rafting is available in the Lowe River.

A new attraction this year will be a melodrama six nights a week at the civic center. The play, "Shoot-out at the Keystone Canyon," is based on local history and will be put on by the Leitch Brothers and the University of Alaska-Anchorage Theatre. Shows are slated to begin June 25.

There's a nice museum, the Valdez Heritage Center, which houses the city's refurbished 1907 Ahrens steam fire engine, the only one of its kind in Alaska. There's also a modern library with a summer reading program, paperback exchange and all sorts of periodicals open for perusal.

For more information, visitors can get help at two visitor centers. The Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau can be found in the airport terminal building which will be renovated this summer. The Valdez Chamber of Commerce information office is near the small boat harbor. Call the VCVB at 835-2984 or the chamber at 835-2330 for help.

Airline, bus and ferry service regularly service Valdez.



Derby fishing is a popular attraction.



## Derby fishing is profitable fun

By DIANA BRYSON  
Staff Writer

Fish worth more than their weight in gold attract hundreds of fishermen to Alaskan seaports during annual fishing derbies.

From the end of May to late August, coastal communities offer residents and visitors the chance to win thousands of dollars for catching "the big one."

The cities welcome visitors to enter their contests. Charter boats are available during derby days for tourists who want to dangle their lines in the Pacific's depths for the heaviest salmon or halibut.

Cities that hold derbies include Haines, Juneau, Valdez, Ketchikan, Homer, Seward, Wrangell and Anchor Point.

The Valdez Silver Salmon Derby is held from July 27-Aug. 25 and offers a \$10,000 first prize for the largest silver salmon caught. The second-largest fish is worth a \$10,000-valued lot donated by a Valdez merchant. Weekly, daily and mystery prizes are offered as well. Season tickets cost \$25 and daily tickets are \$5.

Meanwhile, across the bay, Seward officials are gearing up for their 30th annual Seward Silver Salmon Derby. Besides the usual hoopla caused by incoming fishermen during derby days, the head of the derby committee, Lee Nelson, promises a general celebration atmosphere this year "so when people aren't fishing, there are other things to do."

The entry fee for Seward's derby is \$25 for the season and \$10 a day.

The Homer Halibut Derby is held July 1-31. First prize is \$2,000.

In Anchor Point, 200 miles south of Anchorage and 15 miles north of Homer, the Anchor Point King Salmon Derby is held the last week in May and the first three weeks of June. Grand prize is \$750. The entry fee is \$5 a weekend, \$15 for all four weekends and \$35 for a family for the season.

In Southeast Alaska, the Haines Salmon Derby is held from May 25-27 and June 1 and 2. Altogether, the derby offers more than \$10,000 in prizes. The entry fee is \$7 a day and \$20 for all five days.

The Juneau Salmon Derby is held from Aug. 9-11 and offers hundreds of thousands of dollars in prize money. Besides the heaviest fish caught, derby officials will mark four fish, each worth \$100,000 if caught.

First prize for the heaviest fish is \$10,000, second prize is \$7,500 and third place is \$5,000. Derby officials say while charters are available in Juneau during the contest, reservations may be necessary.

Ketchikan's King Salmon Derby will be held May 25-27 and June 1 and 2 and June 8 and 9.

The grand prize for the heaviest fish is a \$10,000 trip to wherever the winner wants to go. The entry fee is \$40 for families for all three weekends and \$17 for individuals for all three weekends.

In Wrangell's 33rd Annual Salmon Derby, held from May 11-27, the prize for the heaviest salmon is \$4,000.

The Petersburg King Salmon Derby is held from May 24-27.

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# Canoeists don't piddle around

By KRIS CAPPS  
Staff Writer

**FAIRBANKS**—The rivers are the highways of Alaska.

In the winter, they are covered with snowmachine trails. Between mid-May and mid-September boaters can be seen using every stream that can float a goldpan. The earliest explorers in the Interior followed the rivers, and one has seen little of Alaska without following their tracks.

The canoe is the first choice of most outdoorsmen. It is versatile, inexpensive and easy to transport. A family's canoe can take evening outings on the Chena River, run races on weekends, challenge the whitewater stretches of bigger rivers and haul out a moose or caribou in the fall.

The best river to start on is also the closest.

## CHENA RIVER

Fairbanks may have been founded from a grounded riverboat, but canoes can pass up and down the Chena River easily all summer long.

The many landings make trips of any length possible. The gentle current of the Chena also means you don't have to shuttle two vehicles between the landings. One favorite trip is to paddle upstream from the Graehl Street landing near the north side of the Steese Highway bridge, then float back down.

You will encounter riverboaters who are usually courteous enough

to slow down and lessen their wakes.

## CHATANIKA RIVER

This is the next step. The favorite spot to put in for the Chatanika is the campground at Mile 39 Steese Highway. One can run down about eight miles of the river parallel to the highway south of that point, taking out at any number of places.

Along this stretch, it's possible to chain a bicycle to a tree along the river and use it to retrieve the car at the campground.

After that, the river turns west just north of Chatanika and runs another nine miles to the bridge on the Elliott Highway.

Running the full 17 miles makes a good day, but it will require two cars and a tank of gas for each. From Fairbanks, one will drive at least 140 miles making the shuttle between the Elliott and Steese Highways.

The river level in the Chatanika is best in May and June. In August, it can only be run after heavy rain. The winding river doesn't have tricky currents, but it is often choked with logjams and sweepers.

## TANANA RIVER

A popular overnight canoe trip is to run the Tanana from the end of Chena Pump Road to Nenana. This



The canoe is the first choice of most outdoorsmen.

60-mile trip can be done in a long day—8-10 hours of paddling—but many people like to camp halfway and turn it into a weekend trip.

With enough planning and the right train reservations, it's possible to float to Nenana and take the Alaska Railroad back to Fairbanks.

## CLEARWATER RIVER

An easy and pleasant stretch of water, the Clearwater River in De-

lta is crystal clear and free of ice virtually all year long.

In early May, the Delta Clearwater and nearby Clearwater Lake are great places to view waterfowl.

The most popular entry point is at the Clearwater Lodge at the end of Jack Warren Road. One can paddle up or down the stream from here, but the common route is down to the Tanana River to the Richardson Highway Bridge.



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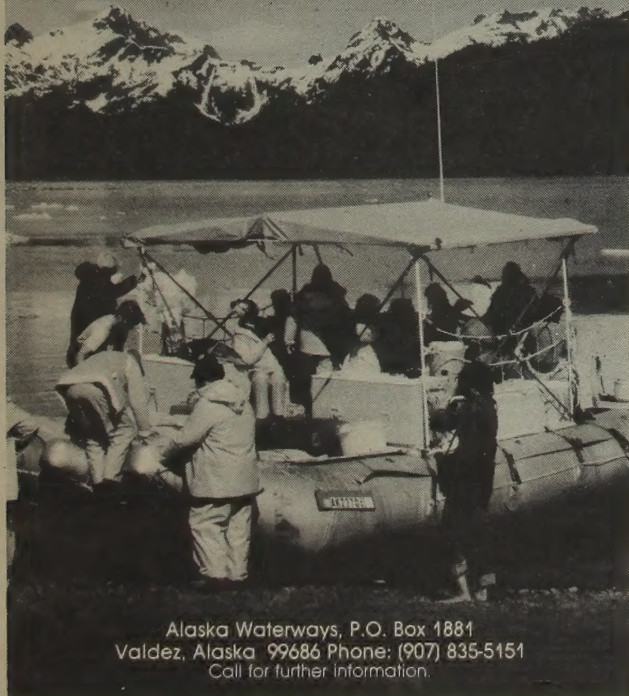
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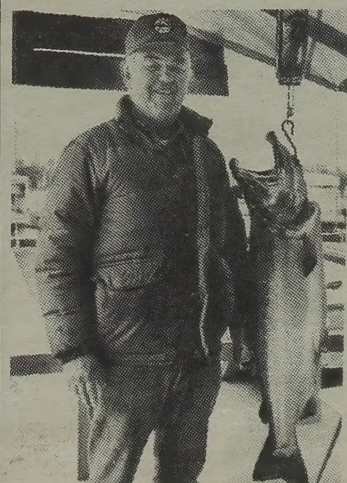
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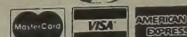
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# There's plenty of whitewater, too

**FAIRBANKS**—If challenging whitewater is what you're looking for, there's plenty to choose from in the Interior.

## NENANA RIVER

This is a popular and easy river to reach, with several levels of whitewater to choose from.

The stretch above McKinley Village offers an excellent introduction to whitewater canoeing.

The run starts 20 miles east of Cantwell on the Denali Highway. Generally, parties like to camp in this secluded section, then float down to the Parks Highway Bridge north of Cantwell on the second day. This part of the river has short stretches of whitewater.

Below the Parks Highway Bridge, the camping gear can be stowed in vehicles and boats prepared for serious whitewater. The river makes several long loops between the highway and the Alaska Railroad.

The rapids get harder as one moves along.

The easiest section ends at

McKinley Village, although there is one Class III rapid to negotiate. An intermediate stretch goes from McKinley Village to the Parks Highway bridge just past the entrance to Denali National Park.

Commercial raft tours operate on the river north of McKinley Village, and through the Nenana River gorge. Only very experienced boaters should attempt the river past the park entrance.

## GULKANA RIVER

The Gulkana offers a 60-mile variety of everything in Alaskan boating. It starts with several miles of lake paddling, goes into five miles of whitewater, turns to a long afternoon of slow water and then starts another eight miles of Class II and III rapids with a one-quarter mile canyon, often portaged by boaters.

The put-in point is the state campground at Paxson Lake. The take-out is Sourdough campground. Both are on the Richardson Highway north of Glennallen.

It is also the most popular In-

terior whitewater river—particularly on certain weekends, like the Fourth of July.

The Gulkana can be low in August, so it's best to float in May and early June.

Rafters like to carry small outboard motors to speed the trip across Paxson Lake and down the quiet stretches.

A second access to the Gulkana is from the Tangle Lakes, which cross the Denali Highway about 20 miles west of Paxson. This requires three short portages between the lakes, one long portage of several miles to Dickey Lake and some lining down the upper part of the shallow Gulkana tributary that flows eastward to meet the main stream a few miles south of Paxson Lake.

## DELTA RIVER

Going north from the Tangle Lakes puts a boater in the Delta River. This initially offers long stretches of Class II and III water but ends in a falls that requires a short portage. Most canoeists take out when the river reaches the Richardson Highway, since the water downstream is definitely for rafts and kayaks only.

## BIRCH CREEK

This is a long whitewater trip between two bridges crossing the Steese Highway. The quality of the river varies depending on how much mining is going on.

The trip takes at least a week. The put-in point is the bridge at Mile 94 Steese Highway and the take-out is Mile 147. The river can be very low in late summer.

## FORTY MILE

The Forty mile River is the longest whitewater river run accessible by road in the Interior. It

also offers the most river miles for the shortest car shuttle.

Cars can be left in Eagle and the trip started near Chicken. The water level changes with rainfall but is usually fairly low in summer. Plan four days—or three days if you take out at Clinton Creek, Canada.

## CHULITNA RIVER

This river is not more than 10 miles from the Parks Highway.

It leaves the highway via a narrow and fast tributary, and there are few places to relax after that. Currents are strong and tricky.

## State tourism budget cut

**JUNEAU (AP)**—Next year's tourism budget will be cut about \$880,000 and state officials aren't happy about it.

Terry Miller, deputy director of the division of tourism, said that lawmakers appropriated \$8.1 million for tourism promotion this year, but they cut the total to \$7.2 million for fiscal 1986.

"They were looking at revenue reductions, so they were forced to do some belt-tightening," Miller said. "But it's distressing because all the other states are increasing their budgets while we're falling back."

"Dollars spent for tourism promotion are dollars well spent," she said. "When dollars are down, it seems prudent to spend dollars that bring returns to the state."

Most of the cuts probably will come out of the state's television budget, Miller said.

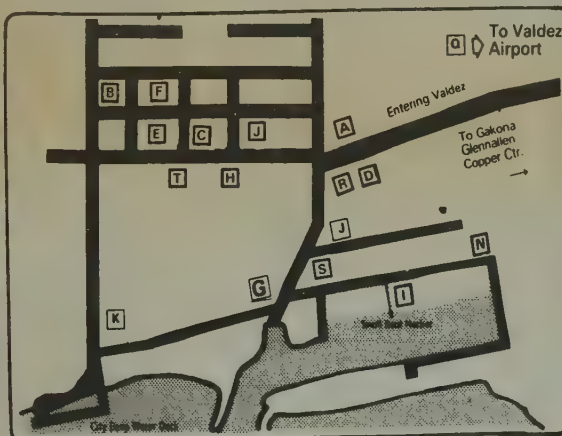
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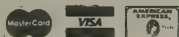
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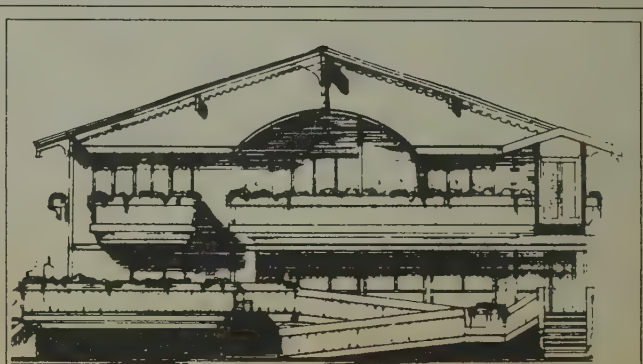


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# Whitewater kayaking has its ups and downs

It looks easy from shore, but the first time most people get into a whitewater kayak, they find they can't paddle in a straight line and they usually tip over.

With a little practice in a swimming pool and then on a river, paddlers discover that not only can they make the boat go where they want to go, but they can have fun doing it. And they can be as daring

or as timid as they want to be.

Fitted properly, the boat becomes an extension of the paddler's body which he can easily maneuver around submerged rocks and up and over waves. The sport becomes both challenging and thrilling.

Beginning boaters are often content low downstream with the current, avoiding turbulent water.

But kayakers who have taken the

time to become skilled and comfortable in their crafts, head straight for whitewater. They look for surfing waves where they can face upstream and remain virtually motionless as the river rushes by. They scout for holes which will grab the noses of their boats, standing the kayak vertically on end.

Before going out on a river, kayakers spend time in a swimming pool practicing an Eskimo roll, a maneuver to right themselves after they tip over. Upside down, the kayaker uses the paddle as a brace and snaps his hips to flip the boat upright.

If the Eskimo roll fails, the paddler swims. He falls out of his boat, and works his way to shore with boat and paddle in hand. That can be an exhausting and cold experience—especially in Alaskan waters.

Kayakers—particularly in Alaska—must be properly outfitted to protect themselves from the cold water. They should wear either wet suits or dry suits, helmets to protect heads when they're upside down, and lifejackets to stay afloat when falling out of boats.

## If you want to race . . .

Here is the schedule for whitewater kayak and canoe races around the state this summer.

• Saturday, June 15—Keystone Canyon-Lowe River Downriver Race. The race starts at noon. For more information call Steve Jordan at 835-5247 or Andy Embick at 835-4200.

• Sunday, June 16—Tsaina Downriver Race—This Class III to III+ race course ends above the Class IV section with a road to the river for easy takeout. Time to be announced. For more information call Steve Jordan at 835-5247.

• Sunday, June 30—Kenai Downriver Race. For more information call Gary Galbraith at 595-1226.

• Sunday, July 7—Nenana Downriver Race. The race course runs several miles on the Nenana River near the entrance to Denali National Park.

• Saturday, July 20—Eagle River Downriver Race. For more information call Venable Vermont at 243-5472.

• Sunday, July 21—Eagle River Slalom Race. For more information call Alex Swiderski at 243-8102.

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## So you want to rent a canoe?

Here's how to see Alaska's rivers firsthand.

To rent a canoe, call or write:

Alaska Raft—529 Front St., Fairbanks 99701; 456-1851.

Beaver Sports—Box 80195, 2400 College Rd., Fairbanks 99708; 479-2494.

Canoe Alaska—1738 Hilton Ave., Fairbanks 99701; 456-8198.

Charley River Canoe Sales—857 Ensley Road, Mile 6.5 Richardson Highway, Route 2, North Pole 99705; 488-6990.

Chena River Floats—Box 73452, Fairbanks 99707; 455-6502.

For guided or unguided tours, fishing or sight-seeing by canoe call or write:

Alaska Mining—7027 Sewell Dr., Salcha 99714; 488-9538.

Arctic Brotherhood Entertainment Committee—1304 Westwick Dr., Fairbanks 99701; 457-8907.

Circle North River Trips—Box 56721, North Pole 99705; 488-3942.

General Bull Moose Canoe Tours—1437 Ithaca Dr., Fairbanks 99701; 479-4061.

Tektanika Tours—Box 10367, Fairbanks 99710; 457-7194.

For guided riverboat and jet boat tours, call or write:

Alaska Mining—7027 Sewell Dr., Salcha 99714; 488-9538.

Alaska River Charters—228 Iditarod, Fairbanks 99701; 479-5967 or 452-3971.

d'Artois Enterprises—Box 60282, 396 Tovey Dr., Fairbanks 99706; 479-6102.

Riverboat Discovery—Box 80610, Fairbanks 99708; 479-6673.

Susitna Sportfishing—Box 1325, Fairbanks 99707; 488-2602.

Swiftwater and Mountain Men High Adventure Expeditions—424 Hagelbarger Dr., Fairbanks 99701; 457-3766.

Yukon River Cruises—Box 100034, Anchorage 99510; 277-5581.

For raft tours, call or write:

Alaska Fish and Trails Unlimited—Box 20154, Fairbanks 99701; 455-6012.

Alaska Wilderness Expeditions, Inc.—Box 73297, Fairbanks 99707; 457-7715 or 456-7715.

Alaskan Back Country Guides Cooperative—Box 81533, Fairbanks 99708; 479-2754.

Arctic Treks—Box 73452, Fairbanks 99707; 455-6502.

Denali Raft Adventures—Box 427, Denali National Park 99755; 683-2234 or 683-2643.

McKinley Raft Tours—Box 138, Denali National Park 99755, Mile 238 Parks Highway, Route 3, one mile north of Denali National Park entrance; 683-2392.

Tundra Treks—1819 Musk Ox Trail, Fairbanks 99701; 479-2754.

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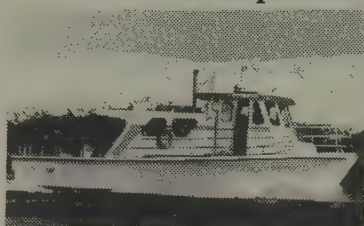
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# Historical Delta 25 years old

## Buffalo, huskies, Army, agriculture thrive here

By SHARON HANEY  
Correspondent

DELTA—The city of Delta Junction is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, but the area has been an important wayfarer's stop since the turn of the century, when a ferry carried wagons across the Tanana River.

The sprawling community of Delta (about 5,000), which is settled on land between the Delta River, Tanana River, Gerstle River and Granite Mountain ridges of the Alaska Range, is also home to Alaska's largest free-ranging buffalo herd, hundreds of huskies, Fort Greely Army Reservation and the large-scale farms of the Delta Agricultural Project.

Big Delta State Historical Park on the banks of the Tanana River at Rika's Landing is in the midst of a restoration effort to give a glimpse of the former era—if you can ignore the modern technological intrusions of the highway bridge and the trans-Alaska pipeline cable suspension bridge!

Next to the pipeline, our most photographed local landmark is the "End of the Alaska Highway Milepost" at the brand-new Visitors' Information Center, downtown. Stop in and pick up your certificate to prove that you have traveled that long, long road, and browse through the brochures provided by the Delta Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to tell all the things to see and do here.

Besides the breathtaking scen-

ery of the Alaska Range to the south, there is great fishing and boating. You'll be "lured" to Quartz Lake, Clearwater River, Clearwater Lake, the Delta, Goodpaster and Tanana rivers, and other spots accessible only by boat or air, if that's part of your Alaska plans. Air taxi and aerial sightseeing services are available here.

If you are eager as a beaver to see the buffalo, it might take some patience, but there are about 400 of them here. The best spot to see them during summer is across the Delta River at Mile 241 Richardson Highway—take your binoculars—and for more information, contact our local Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Bison are not new to Alaska and roamed the northland up until about 300 years ago, when they died out. "Our" buffalo were brought to Big Delta from the National Bison Range at Moiese, Mont., in 1928. The small seed herd of about two dozen animals was turned loose and has prospered. There are three other free-ranging buffalo herds in Alaska, at Farewell, Copper River and Chitina River, but those are harder to find.

Located along the Alaska Highway from Mile 1388 to Mile 1413 is the Delta Agricultural Project, a large-scale farming venture begun in 1978 with state sponsorship. Barley is the main crop produced, though hay, oats and hogs are also raised. Access roads for viewing the project are located at Mile 1403.5 and Mile 1410.



About 5,000 residents live in Delta Junction

Fort Greely Army Reservation, five miles south of Delta Junction on the Richardson Highway, is the seventh largest post in the U.S. Established as an Army Air Force Base in 1942, the fort served as a transfer point for American and Russian pilots during the war. Aircraft flown to Fort Greely by American pilots were taken from here into Russia by Soviet personnel.

Named for Maj. Gen. Adolphus Washington Greely, Arctic explorer and founder of the Alaska Communications System, it presently is used mostly for testing and maneuvers by the Northern Warfare

Training Center and the U.S. Army Arctic Test Center. Fort Greely also trains military personnel in Arctic survival, navigation of inland waterways, skiing, mountaineering and glacier traverse.

The community hosts two fairs during summer: The Fort Greely Midnight Sun Carnival on June 21, and the Deltana Fair on Aug. 2-4, which comes complete with a parade, carnival rides, special events and prize ribbons. Other summer events include regular softball games and tournaments, horse shows and gymkhanas, a fishing derby and local and imported en-

tertainment at local lodges and restaurants.

There are two campgrounds in Delta: One downtown on the Richardson Highway, and the other out-of-town next to Clearwater Lodge. Or, if your idea of "roughing it" is a comfy bed, there are a number of motels in the area. There is also an American Youth Hostel in the Tanana Loop area. Many services are available, from medical and dental to hairstyling and auto repair.

Whatever your Alaska plans may be, we hope you'll stay over and discover Delta!

## Disabled can also experience Alaska

By ROBERTA STEIN

Many questions are asked during a typical tourist season in Alaska. Some of the more common types we have heard are: "Are there any good camping spots in Fairbanks?" "What are the best hotels to stay at in Valdez?" "Where can I go in Anchorage to get a good steak?" "What is the best halibut fishing charter company in Homer?" These are relatively easy questions to answer, but now look at the questions from a different angle:

- "Are there any good camping spots in Fairbanks—that have facilities for wheelchair users?"
- "Are there any hotels in Valdez—with rooms specially adapted for people with disabilities?"
- "Where can I go in Anchorage to get a good steak—and get my wheelchair up to a table or into the restrooms?"

To answer some of these questions, we created Barrier Free Alaska, a non-profit corporation that provided information to disabled persons to enable them to get out and about independently in Alaska and to the business community throughout the state to encourage them to make their facilities barrier free.

For more than a year, my husband, Gary, and I have been traveling around Alaska trying to find answers to these more complex questions. It has been an exciting—as well as educational—experience, measuring doorway widths

and table heights, counting designated handicapped parking spaces, and experiencing firsthand many of Alaska's foremost tourist attractions.

We have driven the Parks Highway from Anchorage to Fairbanks, the Seward and Stirling highways to Seward and Homer, and the Glenn and Richardson highways to Copper Center and Valdez, and we have flown to Juneau and ridden the Alaska Marine Highway looking for restaurants, gift shops, museums, scenic sites and other points of interest that Alaska's disabled population, as well as disabled tourists, should be able to enjoy. We compiled all the information we gathered into "Barrier Free Alaska," the first statewide guidebook for disabled consumers in Alaska.

A 1978 general guidebook for disabled travelers basically said "don't go to Alaska," because outside of the major cities there are really no facilities that will allow disabled people to enjoy America's Last Frontier as other people can. This just isn't so. We camped and fished for salmon at Anchor River. We took my wheelchair on a halibut fishing charter boat out of Homer (I caught a 34-pounder!). We found camping facilities outside of Fairbanks with specially designed sites and picnic tables for wheelchair users.

We found a U.S. Forest Service cabin on an island in Southeast Alaska that has a specially cantile-

vered dock for wheelchair access to boats or floatplanes. We know of a sports specialty shop in Anchorage that deals in equipment (such as electric fishing reels and automatic boat-loaders) for disabled people. We even found a guide who takes disabled people—wheelchairs and all—on fly-in fishing and hunting trips.

There are 19 million disabled travelers in this country, and Barrier Free Alaska is going to the Abilities Unlimited Expo in Los Angeles from April 19-21 to let them know that Alaska is open, and available, and accessible regardless of one's disability. You are only limited by your imagination.

It is possible for a disabled person to go sea-kayaking, enjoy white-water rafting, ski and hike in our country's most beautiful national parks, and fly to the Bush and camp, fish and hunt with experienced guides. There are also historical sites that, though seemingly difficult to reach, can be experienced by anyone willing to risk the adventure.

Facilities in Alaska's communities, from tiny Valdez on Prince William Sound to metropolitan Anchorage, are equal—if not better—in accessibility to any community in the Lower 48, partly because we are new and are building new things every day, and partly because the people of Alaska recognize that there are major portions of our communities that have special needs.



A handicapped person tries out halibut fishing on a charter out of Homer.



# Bicyclists have roads to travel

Bicycling on Interior Alaskan roads attracts a wide range of outdoor enthusiasts during the summer months. Alaskan and visiting cyclists enjoy touring, racing, commuting or just staying in shape for winter sports by taking advantage of the extended daylight, varied terrain and relatively uncrowded highways. The dry weather and moderate temperatures of the Interior in summer are a special bonus to those who choose to view the sights on a bike. In the past few years Fairbanks has had the opportunity to greet many unique cyclists, including a unicyclist from Montreal on a tour of the U.S. and Canada and an English cyclist riding to Prudhoe Bay.

The Fairbanks Cycle Club promotes bicycling in the area for all age

groups and interest levels. A member-club of the United States Cycling Federation, the FCC holds many races and day tours throughout the summer. (See schedule) All races have two competitive classes, offering cyclists of all skill levels an opportunity to race. This year the club is also holding recreational rides Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons for anyone who enjoys more moderate exercise in the company of other bicyclists. These rides provide an opportunity for cyclists to meet and learn from one another.

Anyone interested in participating in the activities planned or who has questions about the club is urged to call 455-6837 for more information.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT RIDES

1985 Season

May 1—TIME TRIAL—Murphy Dome Road



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TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: 1.7 Mile Murphy Dome Road.

May 8—ROAD RACE—Patty Gym to Ballaine and back.

TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Patty Gym parking lot.

May 15—TIME TRIAL—Spinach Creek Hill Climb

TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: 1.7 Mile Murphy Dome Road.

May 22—TIME TRIAL—Ann's Greenhouse to Miller Hill

TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Ann's Greenhouse.

May 29—ROAD RACE—Ester Mountain Road Race

TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Ester Weigh Station.

June 5—CRITERIUM—N.P.H.S. Course

TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: North Pole High School.

June 12—ROAD RACE—Old Steese



The Fairbanks area has many races to challenge the most hardy bicyclist.

to Fox and back  
TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Meet at 1/4 Mile Old Steese, just off Farmers Loop.

June 19—PREDICTED TIME TRIAL—Murphy Dome Road  
TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.

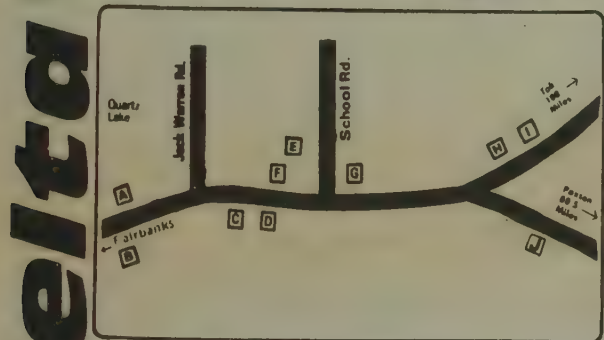
PLACE: 1.7 Mile Murphy Dome Road.

\*Note: You predict your time. No watches allowed on course. Closest prediction wins.

(See BICYCLING, page 15)

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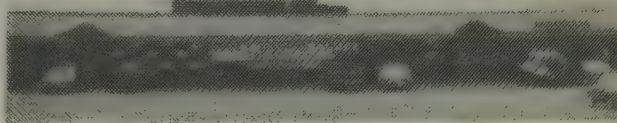
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## BICYCLING . . .

(Continued from page 14)

June 26—ROAD RACE—Fox to Cleary Summit and back  
 TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.  
 PLACE: Fox Weigh Station.

July 3—CRITERIUM—N.P.H.S. Course  
 TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.  
 PLACE: North Pole High School.

July 10—ROAD RACE—Vallata to Fox and back  
 TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.  
 PLACE: Meet at the Vallata, where Ballaine Road meets Goldstream Road.

July 17—TIME TRIAL—Spinach Creek Hill Climb II  
 TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.  
 PLACE: 1.7 Mile Murphy Dome Road.

July 24—ROAD RACE—Ann's Greenhouse to Murphy Dome and back  
 TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts

at 7:00 p.m.  
 PLACE: Ann's Greenhouse.

July 31—TEAM TIME TRIAL  
 TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.  
 PLACE: To Be Announced.

Aug. 7—MAKE UP DAY.  
 Aug. 14—ROAD RACE—2 or 3 laps/District Road Course.  
 TIME: Sign up-6:30—Race starts 7:00 p.m.  
 PLACE: ¼ Mile Old Steese, just off Farmers Loop.

Aug. 21—CRITERIUM—CLUB BANQUET—To Be Announced.

NOTE: \*Club race rules will be used for the above events. Participants must join the Fairbanks Cycle Club to race (\$8.00 yearly membership.) For new members, the first race is free. A \$1.00 entry fee will be charged for each event thereafter.

NOTE: \*1. If it is raining and nasty, the race will be cancelled.

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# Things will be different if you're going to Bush

By STAN JONES  
 Staff Writer

**FAIRBANKS**—Probably the most adventurous thing anyone can do in Alaska is to visit "the Bush." "The Bush" means villages large and small: new languages, different customs, a different sense of time. It means the Kobuk River villages in salmon season when the fish racks are full, or one of the coastal villages at the time of the whaling feast. It means a glimpse of a more leisurely, more simple lifestyle.

If this is what you have in mind when you visit Alaska, it's possible, but you should be aware that some of the rules and conditions are different in the Bush.

For one thing, accommodations

may be scarce. They'll be available in the larger villages, such as Kotzebue, Barrow and Nome. But in the tiny villages, they won't be the Hilton and may not be available at all. So go prepared to take care of yourself. Bring a sleeping bag, maybe even a tent, and your own groceries. Like the snail, travel with your house on your back.

While most villages do have grocery stores, the stock may be limited. And, while eating Native food may sound romantic, it may be difficult to obtain and can take time to get used to.

If you're going to take pictures, bring your own film—don't count on being able to find it in village stores.

And be polite. Native villages are

small towns, and most residents there value their privacy. If you want to photograph individuals at work or at play, first introduce yourself and ask permission.

(See BUSH, page 16)

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## BUSH . . .

(Continued from page 15)

Keep in mind that much of the land around Bush villages is owned by Native corporations, and you may need their permission in order to camp. Officials in charge can be contacted in Fairbanks or Anchorage by looking under "ANCSA Native Corporations" in the Yellow Pages.

Information about accommodations and conditions in the villages can also come from the local commuter airlines that serve them. These airlines are listed in the Yellow Pages.

While organized tours of large Bush communities such as Nome, Kotzebue and Barrow are readily available, there are few compara-

ble packages for travel to the smaller villages.

Nevertheless, one Fairbanks-based carrier, Harold's Air Service, plans to offer one-day tours this summer of Fort Yukon, which is an Indian village and former Hudson's Bay trading post located at the northernmost reach of the Yukon River, a few miles above the Arctic Circle.

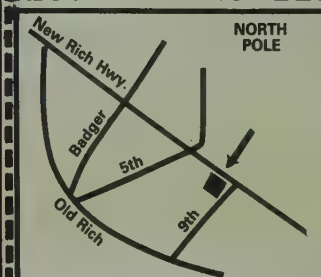
In general, be prepared for a lack of urban amenities in the Bush. A small village may or may not have a telephone in working order, and there may or not be a central water system. Some villages now have water treatment facilities with showers and a laundromat, but many do not.

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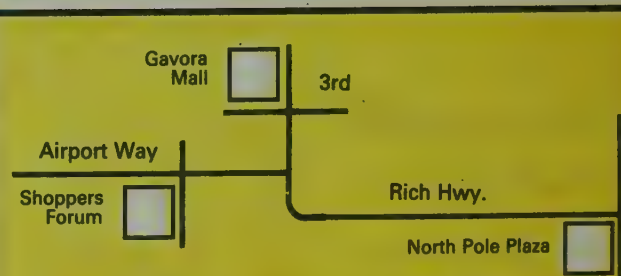


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# Dalton Highway worth the long Haul

By STAN JONES  
Staff Writer

**FAIRBANKS**—Want to take a drive along the famous "Haul Road," the gravel highway that carried the pipe and the construction equipment when the Trans-Alaska Pipeline was built?

You can, and it's a whale of a trip. But several provisos go along with it.

First of all, the general public can go only as far as Disaster

Creek, some 295 miles north of Fairbanks. Beyond that, only commercial and industrial travelers are allowed.

If you think you qualify as a commercial or industrial traveler, you can apply for a permit to go farther by contacting the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, 2301 Peger Fairbanks; telephone 452-1911.)

Once you get out of the Fairbanks area, services and supplies are

available at only two points on the Dalton Highway, as the Haul Road is officially known.

The first is where the highway crosses the Yukon River, 141 miles north of Fairbanks. Facilities include gasoline (as of early May, regular and unleaded were both priced at \$2.25 per gallon), wrecker service, tire repairs, a hotel and radiotelephone service. MasterCard, Visa and checks are accepted. Gas is available 24 hours per day; the cafe is open from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.

The second service site is Coldfoot, 258 miles north of Fairbanks and about 37 miles south of the turnaround point at Disaster Creek.

Facilities at Coldfoot include a restaurant, a hotel, gasoline (priced in early May at \$2.20 for regular and \$2.25 for unleaded), tire repair, wrecker service, light mechanical repairs and a radiotelephone. All services are available 24 hours per day. American Express is the only credit card accepted at Coldfoot. Checks on Alaska banks are also generally accepted.

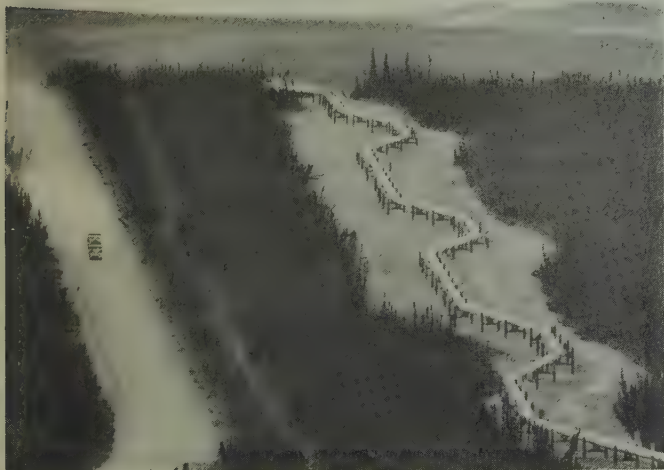
The Dalton Highway can be quite dusty and difficult to drive. Expect heavy truck traffic, as the road is still in use to supply the oil fields on the North Slope.

Carry your own food, water, plenty of money and emergency equipment, make sure everything about

your vehicle—especially the tires—is in good shape, and try to take at least two good spares. Garages are hundreds of miles apart on the Dalton, and the services they provide are quite limited. A major breakdown will likely require either a long wait while parts, and possibly a mechanic, are shipped in, or that you make a deal with a passing trucker to haul your vehicle back to Fairbanks.

For the intrepid, though, the pleasures of the trip can be many. The Dalton Highway features the only U.S. bridge across the Yukon, and traverses some of the most breathtaking scenery in Alaska. Wildlife

(See HIGHWAY, page 18)



The Dalton Highway parallels the trans-Alaska pipeline as it snakes highway toward Valdez.

(News-Miner file photo)

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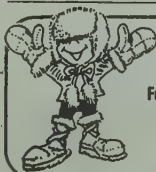
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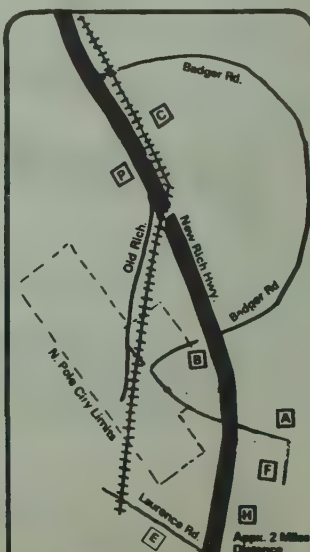
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# North Pole: a city definitely on the move

By **CONNIE OEHRING**  
Staff Writer

**NORTH POLE**—The small city of North Pole, 13 miles southeast of Fairbanks, has recently gained fame as one of the fastest-growing communities in the state.

The city began as a homestead owned by Bon Davis, who sold to developers in 1950. The land was

subdivided and the residents later incorporated as a city in 1953. North Pole now has about 1,500 residents and the surrounding area, from Eielson Air Force Base down Badger Road, has about 18,500 more.

An entirely new business area has mushroomed in North Pole over the past two years, including at least seven new malls, shopping

centers and professional buildings. The North Pole Plaza mall, attached to the Market Basket grocery and liquor stores, contains 27 shops and two satellite stores, making it the largest mall in the Interior.

In addition to new businesses, North Pole has some old standards that are long-standing visitor attractions in the community.

The Santa Claus House is one, standing right on the Richardson Highway between North Pole's two major intersections. The bright murals on the outer walls and the large Santa Claus figure towering nearby have provided background for thousands of photographs. The large gift shop is owned by Con Miller and his family, who were among the earliest residents of the little town.

North Pole also boasts Interior Alaska's only refinery, North Pole Refining, owned by Mapco Petroleum Co. However, a smaller refinery, owned by a new company called Petro Star, Inc., will be erected beside Mapco's this summer.

North Pole has a campground on 5th Avenue, and is close to the large Chena Lakes Recreation Area off Laurance Road.

North Pole is also the home of KJNP (King Jesus North Pole), which operates two radio stations and a television station about half a mile behind the visitor's center on the Richardson Highway. KJNP was founded by Rev. Don Nelson, a missionary Bush pilot who wanted to have an ongoing ministry with all the people in Alaska's Bush. KJNP is surrounded by its own residential

community, the log buildings of Jesus Town, housing members of the mission.

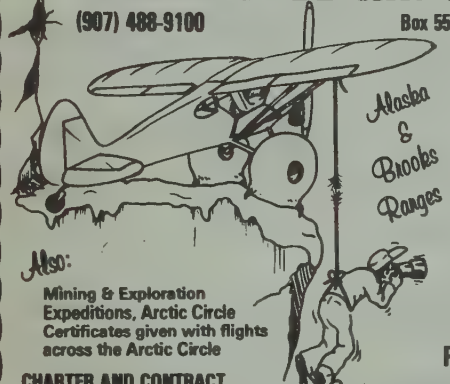
The North Pole Post Office on Fifth Avenue is popular for its postmark, particularly at Christmas time.

The town contains several churches, two bars, several restaurants and gas stations, a laundromat, a bank, an elementary school, a middle school and a large brand-new high school. It has a police and fire department and a public library. The city is governed by a mayor and city council.

Along Badger Road, which cuts a 12-mile mostly residential loop from 6 Mile Richardson Highway to North Pole itself, are several attractions as well. The Northern Lights Roller Rink on Dennis Road is the only rink in the Fairbanks area. Stock car races are held at the North Pole Speedway at 9 Mile Badger Road. The Arctic Acres store, about 8 Mile Badger, offers a small golf course.

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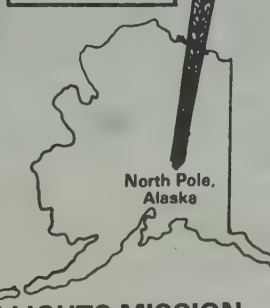


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North Pole, Alaska

## HIGHWAY . . .

(Continued from page 17)  
is not uncommon along the road. Watch for sheep, bear, wolves, foxes, caribou, moose and birds. In certain seasons the tundra on either side blazes with color from fields of wildflowers, and millions of berries ripen in late summer.

If you do decide to drive the Dalton, the federal Bureau of Land Management, which controls most of the land along the highway, makes the following suggestions:

- Use headlights at all times.
- Use wire screens to protect headlights and windshields from flying rocks.
- Take drinking water.
- Don't stop on the highway. Stop only at turnouts.
- Observe the 45-mph-speed limit, especially as you approach the crest of a hill. A stalled tractor-trailer rig, a washout, a moose or an unexpected sharp curve may be just over the top.
- Don't feed wild animals, as it's against state law.
- Hunting with firearms is prohibited within five miles of the highway.
- Off-road vehicles are also prohibited.
- Do not attempt to raft or canoe any rivers unless you are experienced and have made arrangements to be picked up.



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# Fairbanks is fun city

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**FAIRBANKS**—The standard of living may be a bit higher in this northernmost city, but you can still have plenty of fun in and around Fairbanks at budget-saving prices. For example:

**1. ALASKALAND**—The state's only pioneer theme park has 44 acres filled with Fairbanks' past and present. Memories of the Gold Rush days come alive with a walk through Gold Rush Town, Mining Valley and a stroll aboard the sternwheel riverboat Nenana. Relax in a revolving seating area and watch The Big Stampede Show, a pictorial history of the Gold Rush Era. Take a trip through history in the Pioneer Museum, and ride back through time aboard the Crooked Creek & Whiskey Island Railroad. A recreated Native village boasts an Ingalik Kashim, a willow smokehouse and other Native forms of housing. The Big Stampede Show and the train trip each cost \$1 per person. Free transportation is available from area hotels. Information: 452-4529.

**2. ALASKA SALMON BAKE**—Salmon, halibut, ribs, fresh vegetables and salad are served up for lunch and dinner in an outdoor picnic-style restaurant at Alaskaland. Dinners are served from 5-9 p.m. May through September, with lunches open from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. June through August. Information: 452-4529.

**3. LEARN ABOUT THE SPACE PROGRAM**—NOAA's Gilmore Creek tracking center monitors several satellites from its location at 13 Mile Steese Highway. A 30-minute to one-hour tour of the station is available, and admission is free. The station is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone ahead for tour schedules at 452-1155.

**4. AGRICULTURAL WONDERS**—

Huge vegetables of mythic proportions grow in this Land of the Midnight Sun, and the cream of the crop is displayed at the Tanana Valley Fair in August. Until then, take a tour at the Agricultural Experimental Farm at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. The facility offers tours one day per week July and August. Admission is free. In-

(Continued on page 20)

This aerial view of Fairbanks shows a steadily growing city along the banks of the Chena River.



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# It's lots of fun . . . at the right price

(Continued from page 19)

formation for days and times: 474-7581.

**5. GOLD DREDGE NO. 8**—Explore first-hand how the bucketline worked. Included on the National Register of Historic Buildings, this monstrous machine from a bygone era was used to strip the land to reach illusive gold and is located at 9 Mile Old Steese Highway. This five-deck ship, first built in 1928, displaced 1,065 tons of gravel as it plied the rich gold fields of Pedro, Engineer and Goldstream Creeks Tour the gold dredge and try your hand at panning for gold for \$5. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Information: 457-6058.

**6. CRIPPLE CREEK RESORT and MALEMUTE SALOON**—Take a 9 mile drive south of Fairbanks to historic Ester, and visit the resort of Gold Rush fame. Sawdust floor and sound of ragtime music take you back in time to days of yesteryear. A comedy show and unique recital of some of the great Robert Service tales begin at 8 p.m. and two performances are done nightly. Information: Cripple Creek Resort, 479-2500.

**7. NORTHERN LIGHTS ROLLER RINK**—Turn a rainy day into a day of fun rolling around a rink in North Pole. Matinee and evening sessions provide open skating. Call for specific times. Afternoon sessions are \$2.75, evening sessions are \$3 and are \$3.50 Friday and Saturday. Skates can be rented for \$1. Information: 488-9444.

**8. PALACE SALOON**—Take the kids to see a brand new family-type show about Alaska at Alaskaland's Palace Saloon, performed twice daily. A can-can show and vaudeville act of yesteryear is staged for adults later in the evening at 9 and 11 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. Call for times. Information: 452-4529.

**9. SIP SPRING WATER**—The story goes that if you drink Fox water once, you'll always come back for more—no matter where you live. The artesian springs is on the Elliott Highway outside the small community of Fox, about 12 miles from Fairbanks. The water tap is about a half mile beyond the intersection of the Elliott and Steese highways on the left side of the road.

**10. ICE SKATING**—Summer-ize a favorite local winter sport by trying the indoor ice rink at the borough's Big Dipper Ice Arena. The rink is open for recreational skating Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Wednesday and Fridays from 6:30-8 p.m. and Sundays from 12:45-3 p.m. Admission is free. You can bring your own skates or rent them there for \$1.50. Information: 456-6683.

**11. WATCH THE CITY LIGHTS**—Especially toward the end of summer when daylight again begins to wane, watching the city lights of Fairbanks can be a relaxing way to end a day. A good spot is at the top

of Chena Ridge or the intersection of the Steese Highway and Hagelbarger Road, about 10 minutes from downtown Fairbanks.

**12. ART GALLERIES**—Take a glimpse at some of the best works of Alaskan artists and craftsmen at any of the local galleries in town. Included in this lineup are: Alaska House of Xanadu, 452-3714; Alaskaland Civic Center Gallery, 456-6485; Alaskan Native Arts and Crafts Center of Fairbanks, 452-8164; Artworks, 479-2563; Ascension Gallery, 452-7585; Eye Appreciation Gallery, 456-7015; UAF Fine Arts Center, 474-7530; House of Wood, 456-7958; New Horizon Gallery, 456-2063; and Signatures, 452-6875. Admission is free.

**13. CEMETERIES**—Visit the Clay Street Cemetery at the end of Clay and Seventh Avenue where more than 2,000 Alaskans were buried before World War II. A traditional Indian burial ground overlooks the Tanana River near Nenana, located on the north side of the Nenana Bridge 60 miles from Fairbanks on the George Parks Highway.

**14. HISTORICAL CHURCHES**—See the beautiful stained glass windows on the inside of Immaculate Conception Church, a National Historic Monument. Admire St. Matthew's Episcopal Church's altar carved from a packing crate in 1906 by a nurse from the Episcopal hospital. Unique stained glass windows depict the nativity scene from an Alaskan perspective in this lovely log church. Addresses and service times of these and all area churches can be found in Saturday's edition of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

**15. CREAMER'S FIELD**—An Audubon-lover's delight, more than 100 species of birds migrate each spring through Creamer's Field, located at 1300 College Road. A two-mile nature trail winds through a sample of a boreal forest common to Interior Alaska. Admission is free. Information: 452-1531.

**16. DAVIDSON DITCH**—Construc-



Alaskaland's Gold Rush town is a popular site for tourists.

tion of this giant ditch began in 1925 and was completed in 1928 by the Fairbanks Exploration Co. to transport water from the Chatanika River to dredge mining operations in Cleary, Goldstream and Fox. The first water system in permafrost ground, the ditch is a 90-mile canal. Remaining pipe for the ditch is visible at 57 Mile Steese Highway. Steese Highway roughly parallels the same route as it was built to aid in the construction of the ditch.

**17. FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**—This gateway to the Interior and far North is an exciting hub of activity. For aviation and history buffs, the first Jenny flown in Alaska is on permanent exhibit. This, along with beautiful wall hangings, prints and wildlife displays, makes the airport itself an attraction.

**18. FLOAT PLANES**—Alaska has the largest number of privately owned airplanes per capita in the United States. Catch a glimpse of planes taking off and landing at

several spots along the Chena River or on local lakes and ponds. One good vantage point is from the Pump House, located at 1.3 Mile Chena Pump Road.

**19. HISTORICAL SITES WALKING TOUR**—Join a downtown walking tour and see some of the last remaining pieces of boardwalk, miners' log cabins and early high rises. The guided walking tour includes in-depth explanations about old-time and present day Fairbanks. The one-hour tour leaves the Log Cabin Visitors Information Center at 550 First Ave. at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily, contingent upon good weather. Admission is free. Self-guided walking brochures also are available at the visitors center. Information: 456-5774.

**20. HOT SPRINGS**—Hot and bubbling mineral hot springs can be found in this northern region at several nearby resorts. Chena Hot Springs, at the end of Chena Hot Springs Road, 452-7867; Arctic Circle Hot Springs, 134 miles northeast of Fairbanks in Central, 520-5113; and Manley Hot Springs, all offer relaxing hot soaks, swimming pools and/or hot tubs, and lodges.

**21. JESUS TOWN**—Visit the only  
(Continued on page 21)

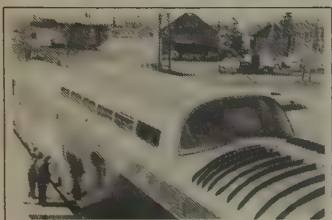


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# Fairbanks is fun

(Continued from page 20)

sod-roofed log cabin community in Alaska. Beautiful examples of log construction, including some of the largest log cabins in Alaska, are nestled among the trees of North Pole. While there, take a tour of a radio station. KJNP, the Christian AM, FM and television station, welcomes visitors to its home on Mission Road. Admission is free. Information: 488-2216.

**22. LARGE ANIMAL RESEARCH STATION**—Tour the University of Alaska-Fairbanks research station and view wildlife at close range. Musk oxen, caribou, reindeer and moose are part of a variety of research projects involving nutritional, ecological and environmental adaptations. Animals can be viewed from platforms adjacent to the station, but binoculars are recommended for observing those in the rear pastures. Tours are offered one day a week July and August. Admission is free. Information: 474-7581.

**23. LIBRARIES**—Read up on the 49th state and learn its colorful history.

**Noel Wien Library:** The borough library has an admirable Alaskan section and visitors can relax by a warming stone fireplace on a rainy day with a video tape or book. An extensive art collection is displayed in the entry. Open Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. Information: 452-5177.

**North Pole Library:** Movies for all ages are shown at 7 p.m. each Wednesday. Call for library hours. Information: 488-6101.

**Elmer E. Rasmuson Library:** Located on the university campus, the archives department houses many historic photos and documents of early Alaska. Information: 474-7581.

**24. MOUNTAIN GAZING**—Take a drive up Ester Dome and gain a commanding 360-degree view of the valleys beyond. The Alaska Range, south of Fairbanks, and Brooks Range, to the north, have some of the highest mountains in North America. Mount McKinley, Mount Deborah, Mount Hess and Mount Hayes are four of the higher mountain peaks visible.

**25. MURALS**—In the spring of 1979 several local artists painted their concepts of the theme "Alaskan Visions—Past, Present & Future" on 20 buildings throughout downtown Fairbanks, which resulted in everything from abstract art to wildlife paintings. Information: Log Cabin Visitors Information Center at 550 First Ave., 456-5774.

**26. MUSEUMS**—Preserved artifacts from Fairbanks' colorful history are kept intact in several area museums:

**University of Alaska Museum:** "Blue Babe," a 36,000-year-old preserved bison, is the star attraction at the museum, which also houses excellent natural and cultural history exhibits about Alaska's past and present. A must-see. Daily summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. Information: 474-7505.

**Pioneer Museum:** Located in Alaskaland's Gold Rush Town, the museum is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the summer. Admission is free. Information: 452-4244.

**Eskimo Museum:** An exhibit filled with Eskimo art and cultural artifacts, animals and history. Daily summer hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free. Information: 488-6868.

**27. NORTHERN LIGHTS**—The crackling lights and patterns of the Aurora Borealis won't be found in the summer skies, but you can see them second-hand. A nightly presentation of a photosymphony multimedia audio visual program includes some panoramic views of the Aurora and is shown in Alaskaland's Civic Center at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The show moves to Ester's Fire House Theatre at Cripple Creek for showings at 6:30 and 9 p.m. on the weekends. A multimedia show on Alaska is shown at the fire house at 7:30 p.m. weekdays. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Information: 479-2130.

The Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks offers a display on the Aurora on the second floor of the Elvey Building. A tour of the building, offered one day a week in the summer months, includes a presentation on the Northern Lights. Admission is free. Information: 474-7558.

**28. PEDRO'S MONUMENT**—Visit the monument commemorating the discovery of gold in 1902 by Felix Pedro in Interior Alaska. Pedro's discovery was instrumental in establishing Fairbanks. The monument is located at 16 Mile Steese Highway on the right side of the road.

**29. PERMAFROST**—Walk through a permafrost tunnel. Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) offers tours through a permafrost tunnel that outlines the frozen ground features and some aspects of placer gold mining. To arrange a tunnel tour, call CRREL at 353-5149. Movies on permafrost and mining in Alaska are available at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks by calling 474-7366.



The Fairbanks International Airport houses a blend of the old and the new. Here, Ben Eielson's plane has a final resting place.

(News-Miner file photo)

**30. PUBLIC LANDS INFORMATION CENTER**—Exhibits and recreation information on state and federal lands in Alaska, with book sales, brochures and daily movies, are available in the basement of the historic Courthouse Square on Third Avenue and Cushman. Opening in June, admission is free. Call for hours. Information: 451-7352.

**31. RIVERBOATS**—Climb aboard the S.S. Nenana docked in Alaskaland or, for a more expensive and expansive ride, take a trip on the historic sternwheeler riverboat "Discovery" down the Chena and Tanana rivers. The Discovery landing is 4.5 Mile Airport Way off the Dale Road exit. The sternwheeler cruises the rivers from 2-6 p.m., and starting in June a second cruise will be added from 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tickets are \$22.50 for adults. Information: 479-6673.

**32. SANTA CLAUS HOUSE**—Sign up to receive a Christmas letter directly from old Saint Nick himself at the Santa Claus House. Appropriately located in North

Pole, this attraction draws visitors from around the world. Look for the giant Santa Claus, the largest in the world, and the candy-striped north

(Continued on page 22)

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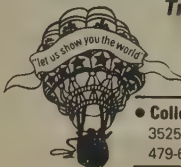
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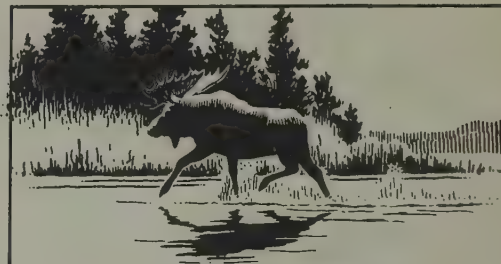
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Environmental Education	June 24 - July 3	Ms. Janet Ady
Gates of the Arctic National Park		
Introduction to Arctic NWR	July 15 - 24	Mr. Averill Thayer
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge		
Nature Literature	July 29 - August 7	Mr. Gary Snyder
Gates of the Arctic National Park		
Natural History of Katmai	August 12 - 21	Dr. Michael Nowak
Katmai National Park		

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## FUN . . .

(Continued from page 21)

pole 15 miles from Fairbanks on the Richardson Highway. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Admission is free. Information: 488-2200.

**33. TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE**—Some 1.5 million barrels of oil flow the pipeline from the Prudhoe Bay oil fields to Valdez daily. The closest view of this technological wonder is eight miles north on the Steese Highway, turn off at Goldstream Road.

**34. UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA-FAIRBANKS**—A walking tour through the 2,250-acre campus is offered daily, which is best noted for its varied science and engineering disciplines as well as its uniquely Alaskan programs such as the Arctic Environmental Research and Alaska Native Languages. The tour highlights numerous sites such as the Boreal Arboretum, the Agricultural Experimental Station and the Geophysical Institute. Information: 474-7581.

**35. VISIT THE GREAT OUTDOORS**—Fairbanks offers a diverse arena of outdoor activities to help you enjoy the long days:

**Backpacking/Hiking:** Venture into the White Mountains or the Pinnell Mountains north of town or spend an afternoon on one of our many local trails. Information: 356-2025 or 479-4114.

**Baseball/Softball:** The unofficial city sport, city league softball games are played at various fields and parks in town at all hours. Or, cheer on the Fairbanks area semi-pro baseball teams at Growden Field. Schedule of baseball games: Men's Softball League, Mark Web-

ber, 452-6768; Women's Softball League, 456-3997 or 479-5340.

**Berry-picking:** Grab a bucket and help yourself to delicious Alaskan berries found around town and along riverbanks.

**Biking:** Rent a bike for \$3 per hour from Chena River Floats at 455-6502 and pedal the bike path around Farmer's Loop Road for a scenic view of the city and valley.

**Fishing:** Grab a pole and fish for some salmon, pike, grayling, sheefish, lake trout, rainbows and silvers in nearby lakes, rivers and streams. Call a hotline number for fishing locations at 452-1525. For a list of rules and regulations for sport fishing, call 456-8819 or 456-4359.

**Golfing:** Earn a certificate verifying you've played at the world's northernmost golf course by hitting a few balls at the Fairbanks Golf and Country Club at Yankovich and Ballaine Roads. Information: 479-6555.

**Horseback Riding:** Saddle up at Wynfromere Farms for a ride into the country. The stable is open 24 hours a day, and rides are \$25 per hour. Information: 457-7902.

**River Trips:** See the countryside from river-level and take to the Alaskan waters in a canoe or rubber raft. Rentals are available at Alaska Raft, 456-1851; Beaver Sports, 479-2494; CanoeAlaska, 456-8198; Charley River Canoe Sales, 488-6990 or Chena River Floats, 455-6502.

**Swimming:** Take a cool dip in the Chena Lakes Recreation Area or local gravel pits. For those with thin-blood, warmer swims are offered at indoor pools for \$1-\$3. Hamme Pool, 456-2969; Mary Siah Recreation Center, 456-6119; Westcott Pool, 488-9401; and Patty Gym Pool, 474-7205 (closed August) are open to the public. Call for times

and prices.

**Tennis:** Courts are available free of charge on a first-come-first-serve basis at the Big Dipper 456-4218 and at Mary Siah Recreation Center, 456-6119.

**36. TOUR OUR DAILY PAPER**—See how a newspaper is put together. Group tours begin Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. and are by appointment only. Call the publisher's secretary at 456-6661 for arrangements. Children under 12 are not allowed.

**37. RELAX YOUR ACHING BACK**—Take a breather from the rush of your travels with an old-fashioned steam bath for two at Three-D Steam Bath at 306 Wendell St. The bath is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from noon to 11 p.m. Admission is \$6 per person or \$10 per couple. Information: 456-6740.

**38. PUT A SONG IN YOUR HEART**—Listen to the Sweet Adelines practice Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church parish hall. Or you can tune into the Greatland Sound Men's Barbershop Chorus Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Patty Powell 6-1072.

**39. VISIT THE TRACK**—Watch the state's fastest stockcars race around a quarter-mile dirt track each Saturday night at 7 p.m. at the Greater Fairbanks Raceway. Directions: Take Peger Road to Taxi Way, turn left. Follow to the raceway.

**40. RE-LIVE THE QUEST**—This year's contest may be over, but you can find out what it's like to run a 1,000-mile race between Fairbanks

and Whitehorse by visiting the Yukon Quest headquarters at 552½ Second Ave. View the displays and videotapes and take home some race souvenirs of the 1985 Yukon Quest. Information: 452-7954.

**41. GO FLY A KITE**—Kite-flying is particularly good in April, May and June. Head up the University of Alaska West Ridge for an excellent place to test the winds.

**42. HAVE A HEARTY CAMP-STYLE BREAKFAST**—A weekend breakfast buffet from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Old F.E. Company Camp features Alaskan homemade sourdough pancakes, sourdough biscuits, corn fritters, blueberry jam, maple syrup and scratch soups served family-style. The camp also serves up breakfast, lunch and dinner daily from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. The mining camp, built in 1921, is a registered national historic site and it once lodged 200 miners for more than 30 years. Antiques and vintage equipment are displayed at the Chatanika camp, located at 27.5 Mile Steese Highway. Information: 456-7000.

**43. PUMP HOUSE**—A national historical monument, the pump house was a part of the vast system of pumps, sluiceways, ditches and flumes constructed in 1933 by the Fairbanks Exploration Co. for its gold dredging operations. The pump house pumped water from the Chena River up 400 feet to Chena Ridge to provide pressure for the hydraulic giants used in dredging. Renovated in 1978 to the present saloon and dining room, the Gold Rush ambiance has been thoroughly preserved with numerous antiques. Located at 1.3 Mile Chena Pump Road. Lunch is served from 11:30-2 p.m. and dinner is served from 5-10 p.m. Information: 479-8452.

**44. LITTLE EL DORADO GOLD**

**CAMP**—Clamber aboard a train for a ride on a narrow gauge rail, see a 30-by-40-foot wall tent typical of the early miners' dining hall, take a guided tour of various old and new mining operations and pan for gold nuggets at the camp, located at 1 Mile Elliott Highway. Information: 456-4598.

**45. CONCERT ON THE GREEN**—Sit in the balmy Fairbanks summer sunshine and rejoice in the sounds as Fairbanks finest musicians perform in the gazebo at Bicentennial Park. The concerts are sponsored by Fairbanks Arts Association and are free to the public.

July 23—Community Band Concert, by Fairbanks Symphony with Ted DeCorso, 7 p.m., Bicentennial Park on Cushman Avenue.

July 25—Community Band Concert with the Sweet Adelines, 7 p.m., Bicentennial Park on Cushman Avenue.

July 26—Community Band Concert with Sand Castle, 7 p.m., Bicentennial Park on Cushman Avenue.

July 28—Community Band Concert with Summer Arts Festival visiting jazz pianist Barney McClure, 12-noon, Bicentennial Park on Cushman Avenue.

Other concerts are tentatively scheduled during Golden Days. Check the Golden Days schedule of events.

Information taken, in part, from the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau brochure, "Fairbanks—Extremely Alaska."

24-hour recorded message of attractions and events in the Fairbanks area.

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The Alaska Railroad now belongs to the state of Alaska.

# Take a leisurely ride on our own railroad

By JOHN CREED  
Staff Writer

FAIRBANKS—Don't visit our beautiful state without at least a short ride on the Alaska Railroad. Try for the whole 470 miles between Seward and Fairbanks if you have time.

Just don't pass it up for anything. Alaskans can say "It's ours, now!" just like the front-page banner headline in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner on Jan. 6 of this year. The story told how government officials the night before had just signed over the railroad's ownership from the federal government to the State of Alaska—for the bargain price of \$22.3 million.

"This may be the best deal since William Seward bought Alaska from the Russians," said a smiling Gov. Bill Sheffield at the celebration. He was speaking in Nenana near the same spot where a golden spike was driven by President Warren G. Harding in 1923 after the railroad was finally completed after nearly a decade of arduous construction.

Don't think for a minute Alaskans are not proud of their newly acquired railroad. We're more than proud. We've even hired one of the state's top business leaders (at a hefty salary) to make sure the thing not only turns a profit, but that it provides both visitors and Alaskans with friendly, dependable travel through what we think is the most stunning natural beauty in all of North America.

Today, it still takes at least 12 hours for the train to go from Anchorage to Fairbanks, just as it did more than six decades ago. But never mind. If you were in a hurry you'd have taken a jet between the state's two largest cities, right? That only takes 40 or so minutes. But you know you'd be missing not only the wonderful scenery, but the opportunity to relax and meet some right-friendly people on the way.

It wasn't easy to build this technological wonder. In fact, several private attempts at a railroad between Anchorage and Fairbanks failed before the federal government decided to do the job itself.

Surplus equipment used in construction of the Panama Canal was shipped north for the project. The line was designed to snake into Alaska's territorial wilderness to link the riches of the Interior with the transportation outlets of the coastal port towns.

In addition, the railroad was seen as a way to open up Alaska's vast lands to homestead settlement along what's called the "Railbelt" today. In fact, one modern carryover is that the train—which averages just 49 miles per hour—still provides flag-stop service to Alaska cabin dwellers who live in remote areas along both sides of the

(See RAILROAD, page 24)

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# Chena Lakes Rec Area growing

FAIRBANKS—When the Chena Lakes Recreation Area opened for its second year May 20, it had some new facilities to offer in addition to the many that were available last year.

New facilities this year include a playground at the lake park, a volleyball court at the lake and another at the river, and a 2.5-mile self-guided nature trail at the river, said Kurt Smith, the park ranger.

One of the lake islands has also been developed into a boat-in camping and picnic area, said Bob Peterson, park superintendent. It includes four picnic sites and two campsites, he said.

Peterson said other plans in the works for the area include a paved nature trail that will be accessible to people with disabilities and a 4.5-mile bike trail around the lake. These two projects will begin this summer, and should be ready by 1986, he said.

"We're also expanding the parking lot, because we had some problems with parking last summer," Peterson added.

The recreation area consists of two parks: the Chena River park near the bank of the river and the Chena Lakes Park, adjacent to the manmade string of lakes. The parks, of which about 270 acres are developed with roads, trails and facilities, are approximately two miles apart. The facility served about 90,000 people last year, Smith said, and will probably serve more this year.

The lake will be stocked again this summer with silver salmon and rainbow trout. The fish in the lake are now about 8-10 inches long, Smith said. The lake and river are both open to fishing.

The 2,000-acre recreation area opened in 1984 as the last phase of an Army Corps of Engineers Flood Control Project that encompasses

nearly 20,000 acres on the Chena River just south of North Pole. The project was begun after the Chena and Tanana rivers overflowed their banks in August 1967, causing millions of dollars in damage and claiming several lives in the Fairbanks area.

There are three camping loops within the two parks, providing 78 camping sites, including spaces for recreational vehicles and tents, two picnic areas with 92 units, three group picnic shelters, two boat launches and a swimming beach. Firewood is sold in the campgrounds.

There are also about 15 miles of roads, five miles of cross-country ski or running trails, several restrooms accessible to the disabled, water pumps and water dumps.

A change house and a warmup house are also available.

There will be a snack concession open at the park, as well as a boat rental facility at the lake, where boating enthusiasts can rent canoes, sailboats or paddleboats, Smith said.

The park gate will be staffed 24 hours a day during the summer season, which ends Sept. 8. The park is officially open year-round, but fees will not be charged after the September closing date.

## CHENA LAKES AT A GLANCE

**How to Get There:** The recreation area is about 18 miles from Fairbanks on the Richardson Highway. To get there, follow the highway past North Pole to Laurance Road. Turn left on Laurance Road and drive to the end, following the signs to the site. Or, if you are heading north on the Richardson toward Fairbanks, look for the turnoff after you pass Moose Creek.

**Hours of Operation:** The Chena Lakes Recreation Area is open for

public use 24 hours a day throughout the year. Beginning May 20, admission will be charged.

**Fees:** The day-use fee is \$3 per vehicle, a rise of \$1 over last year. The overnight camping fee is the same as last year, \$5 a campsite. Annual passes for \$50, double last year's price, are available, but they are not valid on holidays or weekends. Camping is limited to three consecutive days with one extension.

## RAILROAD . . .

(Continued from page 23)

railroad tracks, or hunters on their way back to civilization. So ask in advance if your train will be express or local, because a local can add from a half hour to an hour to your total trip, according to John Copeland, marketing official for the Alaska Railroad.

"We haven't changed much," a railroad promotion brochure reads. "We still follow the same old tracks through Alaska wilderness from Anchorage to Fairbanks. About all you can do is sit back and enjoy the scenery. You can't speed through it. There's no way to avoid Denali National Park. We go right through it. It's just like it used to be. That's the beauty of it."

The Alaska Railroad is getting more popular every year, so reservations are recommended no less than two weeks in advance of travel, especially in the peak summer months. But don't despair if you just arrived in Fairbanks and want to ride the train right away—seats are almost always available just before departure. But be sure to show up early at the train station. Nevertheless, picking up your tickets as soon as you know when you'll be going is always best to ensure your reservation.

**Park Regulations:** Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. No firearms or bows and arrows are allowed in the park. The area is closed to hunting and trapping, but open to fishing. An Alaska fishing license is required. The lakes are stocked with silver salmon and rainbow trout. No motors of any kind, including aircraft, are allowed on the lake. Motorboats are allowed on the river. Swimming is at your own risk. Pets must be on a

leash. Campfires are only allowed in the pits marked and provided at camping and picnic areas. Cutting firewood is not allowed, but dead and fallen wood is fair game, and firewood is sold in the campgrounds.

**Facilities available:** Boat rentals, 78 campsites, 92 picnic sites, two volleyball courts, a playground, three group shelters and two boat launches, a swimming beach, trails.

Just as an aside, the railroad is also a workhorse for a developing young state (Alaska statehood is 25 years old). For example, much coal is presently mined in Healy and shipped via the railroad to Seward, where it heads for markets in Korea. An oil refinery in North Pole, a growing town close to Fairbanks, ships from 8 to 10 million gallons of jet fuel and marine diesel to Anchorage each month.

There's also talk of extending the railroad to other, more remote parts of the state, as well as linking the Lower 48 via the Canadian rail system.

From Fairbanks—currently the northern terminus of the line—the train passes through Nenana, Healy, Denali, Hurricane, Gold Creek, Curry, Chase, Talkeetna, Willow and Wasilla before arriving in Anchorage. At one point, you'll go over a 700-foot steel bridge, one of the largest single-span steel bridges in the world.

A one-way ticket between Fairbanks and Anchorage is \$78.25. One way between Denali Park and Fairbanks is \$29.50. Round trip tickets are double one-ways. Children under 5 can ride free. Children age 5 to 11 ride at half the adult fare. The express train leaves Fairbanks

for Anchorage everyday at 10:30 a.m., and its scheduled arrival is 8 p.m. The express train leaves Anchorage at 8:30 a.m. each day and is due in Fairbanks at 6 p.m. For more information, call 265-2494 in Anchorage. In Fairbanks, call 456-4155. In Seattle, (206) 624-4234.

Local "flag-stop" trains have the same time schedules, but remember, they can be delayed as much as an hour by picking up unscheduled passengers along the way.

Meet you on the train?

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# Creamer's Field: refuge from city life

By SAM BISHOP  
Staff Writer

FAIRBANKS—Wildlife and cities don't always make the best of neighbors, but in Fairbanks the two seem to have declared a truce.

On the north edge of the city limits, sandwiched between College Road and Farmers Loop Road, is the Creamer's Field wildlife refuge, a well-used migratory bird stop and a year-round home for many other species of birds and mammals.

The refuge, which is managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, officially covers 1,776 acres. About 250 acres are cleared and planted with grain.

The most visible inhabitants of the refuge are the waterfowl that pass through each year on the way to summer nesting grounds in Interior Alaska. A parking lot on the south side of the planted field and observation platforms on the west side provide good viewing sites.

Spring is the best time for viewing geese and ducks on the refuge. Some years as many as 2,000 geese can rest in the field at one time, according to Jerry McGowan, refuge manager.

The geese first arrive in mid- to late April and stay for one or two weeks, gradually thinning out as potholes in the field dry and snow and ice clear from outlying wetlands.

A great variety of migratory birds visit each spring, including hawks, sandhill cranes, more than 10 species of ducks and three species of geese.

Every April, the field is plowed to expose the earth to the sun. The department, in the past, contracted with a farmer to plow and plant the field, but now the Future Farmers of America does the work, McGowan said.

By June, most waterfowl have left the refuge. For several years, a number of sandhill cranes have stayed throughout the summer. The smoky grey cranes—dubbed "McGowan's turkeys" by ADF&G employees—can be seen near the northern edge of the open field.

A nature trail winds along the back edge of the field and through the thick woods to the north. Although the trail is boardwalked in the wettest areas, it is not passable without hip boots until late June, depending upon the rain and snowfall the previous winter, McGowan said. By late summer, the area is completely dry.

Moose, rabbits, fox and other



**Creamer's Field offers the tourist and Fairbanksan alike much to see and do in a refuge setting.**

(News-Miner file photo)

animals can be seen in the refuge occasionally. Numerous species of small birds nest in the area.

A brochure is available to explain and point out various natural features along the trail. In addition, an observation platform overlooks a wide open area at the trail's half-way point.

The refuge is also used for Alaska Kennel Club retriever club trials, dog mushing and bowhunting. In addition, the Girl Scouts of America use the area for a day camp.

Creamer's Field was named after Charlie Creamer, who ran a dairy farm on the property for many years. In 1968, the state bought the land and in 1979 it was designated a wildlife refuge.

McGowan, explaining that the refuge has "an insatiable appetite for funding," said future plans call for both expansion of visitor wildlife viewing opportunities and habitat enhancement.

McGowan is currently looking at the possibilities of creating some larger ponds on the northern edge of the refuge in order to encourage waterfowl to nest during the summer. Few ducks and geese nest in the refuge because of a lack of permanent ponds.

An expansion of the nature trail may soon be possible also, McGowan said.

Visitors are asked to stay off the open field area and to also restrain

their dogs from running in the area.

More information is available at the ADF&G regional offices, located next to the refuge on College Road.

24-hour recorded message of attractions and events in the Fairbanks area.

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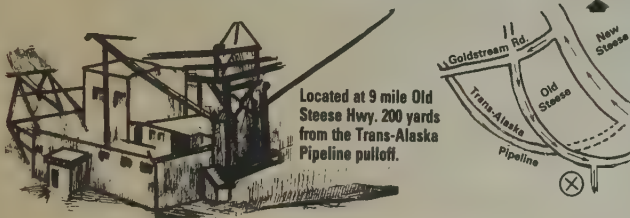
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# Dredges are idle; tales remain



The gold dredges from the past are not working today but gold mining is very active on the outskirts of Fair-

banks. Visitors can see signs of gold-mining on the Parks, Steese and Elliot highways (News-Miner file photo)

**FAIRBANKS**—The gold dredges aren't active in the Fairbanks area any more, but you can still climb aboard one of the 1,000-ton monsters at 9 Mile Old Steese Highway.

Gold Dredge No. 8, which has been named to the National Register of Historic Places, opens daily at 8 a.m. for guided tours through the summer. The cost is \$5 per person and you can also pick up a gold pan and try your luck at panning in ground that was being worked by the dredge when it ceased operating in 1959. You can keep any gold you find.

Owner John Reeves said the ground is not "salted" and in just about every pan you can find colors. Just a short distance away from the dredge is a mining claim that is still being worked with modern methods, but the claim is private property so keep your distance.

"What we have here in front of the dredge where they're working is virgin ground, so it's really good panning," he said.

The 250-foot dredge is five-stories-high and is located near the intersection of the Old Steese Highway and Goldstream Road. This symbol of what the Fairbanks economy used to be like is close to the mainstay of the state's economy today—the trans-Alaska pipeline.

The dredge was one of eight that operated in the Fairbanks area from the mid-1920s until the late 1950s. The dredge and a bunkhouse set up nearby is a family operation that is gradually being restored.

Most of the heavy machinery inside the dredge is in place, although the electrical and mechanical systems are not in working condition.

When the dredge shut down about half of its buckets went to another dredge in Nome.

Reeves said Dredge No. 8, the only dredge open to the public in Alaska, was dubbed "the queen of the fleet."

Between 1926 and 1957, the Fairbanks Exploration Co., which operated the dredges, removed an estimated \$70 million in gold. The last dredge was shut down in 1964, a victim of stable gold prices and rising operating costs.

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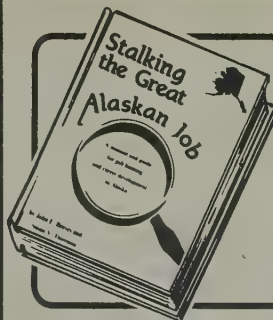
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# Visitors Bureau has plenty of aid to offer tourists

FAIRBANKS—Of all the log cabins that line Fairbanks' riverfront, one sod-roofed building at 550 First Ave. hosts more company than any other—the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau Log Cabin Information Center.

That's a mouthful of a title for such a little cabin, but as the saying goes, it's what's inside that counts.

Sheryl Frey, director of public relations, and her staff are on hand seven days a week to greet the thousands of visitors who walk through the door each year. They offer free hospitality, free informa-

tion and free directions from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. But they want to help even more.

Frey estimates that of the 283,000 people who visited Fairbanks last year, only 64,000 made it to the Information Center.

The rest of them missed out on a complete and up-to-date collection of brochures, maps and general information about Fairbanks and other cities in Alaska.

International travelers who may face a language barrier need not fear. Volunteers throughout the city are on call to help out as inter-

**What's going on around Fairbanks? Call 456-INFO for a recorded listing of the day's events.**

preters. According to Frey, the following languages are spoken through the center's "language bank": German, Italian, Russian, Turkish, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Scandinavian languages, Icelandic, Japanese, and Korean.

According to Frey, the Visitors Bureau recently produced an up-

dated 80-page brochure written in English, French, German and Japanese. It contains comprehensive information on hotels and motels, tours, campgrounds, transportation, attractions, shopping and emergency phone numbers.

Also available for drop-in visitors or phone callers is a daily log of special events, concerts, films, lectures and other interesting happen-

ings. The recorded message at 456-INFO is updated daily.

The center's daily walking tours at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. give a brief history of Fairbanks through its architectural landmarks. The guided tours, like everything else at the Information Center, are free. Brochures also are available for those who'd like to follow their own pace.

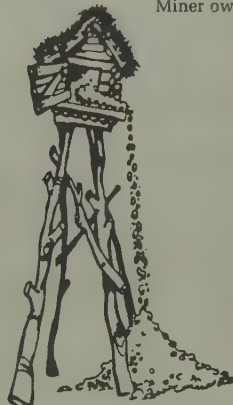
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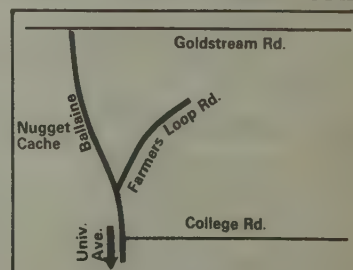
These tourists got a wet greeting but plenty of information at the information center downtown.  
(News-Miner file photo)

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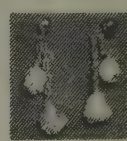
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See #24 on this Edition's big Fairbanks Map (Pg. 32)

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# Here are '85 summer events

May 25-July 27—"Bodyworks: Wearable Sculpture," traveling exhibit of work by artists from around the world that is described as "new departures in body sculpture and ornamentation that push the limits of imagination," UAF Museum.

May 31-June 2—Benefit horse show for Alaska Crippled Children and Adults, gymkhana at 7 p.m. May 31; 8 a.m. June 1-2, Tanana Valley Fairgrounds.

June 1—Tanana Raft Classic, from Fairbanks to Nenana begins at 6 a.m., Pike's Landing, 4.5 Mile Airport Road. Takes 10 hours to two days to complete.

June 1—Fourth Annual Chena River Classic, Fairbanks biggest 10K run which attracts over 700 runners, 9 a.m., Great Land Hotel, First and Barnette. Cost: \$6 to enter, free to spectators.

June 1-2—Nenana River Daze featuring boat races, bluegrass festival etc., 50 miles south on the Parks Highway.

June 1-2—Super Summer Sale Bazaar and Flea Market, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; 12-noon-5 p.m. Sunday, fairgrounds.

June 1-2—Spring Dance Concert by Clair West Ballet and Ballet Barre, 7:30 p.m. on June 1; 4 p.m. on June 2, Alaskaland Theater.

June 2—Flying Lions Airshow features aerobatics, stunt divers, helicopter and airplane rides, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Metro Field off Peger Road. Cost: \$5 adults, \$1 children.

June 3-30—Art exhibit by Fairbanks artists Turid Seanungetuk and Marcia Trainor, and Leon Anderson from Anchorage, Alaskaland Civic Center Gallery. Opening reception, June 3, 6-8 p.m.

June 6-9—Nuchalawoyya Festival in Tanana includes games, potlatches, Athabascan songs and dances, canoe races, Gary Edwin memorial race.

June 7-8—Showing of sculpture

and watercolors by Sandy Jamieson, House of Wood, 5-8 p.m. Friday; 12-noon-4 p.m. Saturday, 411 Sixth Avenue. Show will be up for two weeks.

June 8-9—Great Land Rodeo featuring bronc riding, steer roping and other rodeo events, 2-5 p.m. each day, fairgrounds.

June 14-18—Interior Horseman's Association Horse Show and Clinic, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., fairgrounds.

June 15—Chena Hot Springs Classic, 10K run, 10 a.m., 57 Mile Chena Hot Springs Road.

June 15—Alaska Women's Music Festival featuring performers from around the state and Outside, 12-noon-9 p.m., Dog Musher's Field on Farmers Loop Road. Admission: \$5, goes to benefit publication of works by Alaskan women by non-profit VANNESSApress.

June 20—Midnight Sun Fun Run and Spaghetti Feed, 3-11 p.m., fairgrounds. Information: Mark Sehnert, 479-2444.

June 20-22—"Dames at Sea" musical comedy put on by Fairbanks Drama Association, 8:15 p.m., 558 Gaffney. Cost: \$8 adults, \$4 students and seniors.

June 21—Midnight Sun Baseball game, 11 p.m., Growden Field, Wilbur Street and Second Avenue. Watch the Goldpanners play their annual midnight sun celebration game minus artificial lights.

June 21—Midnight Sun Horseshoe Pitching Tournament, starts at 6 p.m., behind Growden Park.

June 21-23—Summer Solstice to celebrate the longest day of the year with games, booths and music. Location to be announced.

June 22—Dairy Queen/K101 Midnight Classic, 10K run, 10 p.m., UAF Patty Gym.

June 22—Literary Jam Session, a get-together for Fairbanks writers to discuss topics of interest; discus-



The Tanana Raft Classic begins June 1 and usually takes 10 hours to two days to float the river from Fairbanks to Nenana.

sions from 1-3 p.m. and 3:30-5 p.m. A potluck barbecue begins at 5 p.m. and open microphone readings follow at 8 p.m.

June 22-23—Yukon 800 Marathon Boat Race, an 800-mile race from Fairbanks to Galena and back, Pikes Landing. Harriet McCotter, 452-5860.

June 25-28—Camp Brush 'Em Off for children first to 12 grade, all day, at the fairgrounds. Sponsor: Farthest North Girl Scout.

June 27-29—"Dames at Sea" musical comedy by Fairbanks Drama Association. See June 20-22.

June 29—4-H Livestock Clinic, to give showing and grooming tips to those considering showing livestock, poultry, rabbits or goats at the fair, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., fairgrounds. Information: Cooperative Extension Service, 452-1548.

July 4—Old Fashioned 4th of July, Nenana.

July 4—North Pole Summer Festival with food, parade, crafts, game booths, competitive events and races, starts at 9:30 a.m.

July 4—Community Band Concert, 7:30 p.m., Fort Wainwright.

July 4-6—"Dames at Sea" musical comedy by Fairbanks Drama

Association. See June 20-22.

July 4-6—Interior Horseman's Association dressage day, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., July 4; all day July 5-6, fairgrounds.

July 5-8—Interior Horseman's Clinic and Show, all day, fairgrounds.

July 6-7—Renaissance Faire, a two-day fair with knights, jesters, courtesans, parades and medieval activities such as jousting, games and plays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. Location to be announced later. Information: 479-5016.

July 9—Community Band Concert, 7:30 p.m., Bicentennial Park on Cushman Avenue.

July 13-18—Tanana Valley Fair horse show, all day, fairgrounds.

July 20-28—Golden Days, the largest summertime event in Alaska, a week-long celebration with parades, games, races, and cultural events. A Boat Parade will be Sunday July 21; Grande Parade will be at 10 a.m. Saturday July 27; a Kiddie Parade will be at 11 a.m. Thursday July 25. Watch for schedule of events.

July 20-28—Golden Days special art show and signing of Jon Van Zyle Golden Days poster, House of Wood, 411 Sixth Avenue.

July 21—Summer Horse Trials, all day, Movinfree Farms, Yankovich Road.

July 23—Community Band Concert, by Fairbanks Symphony with Ted DeCorso, 7 p.m., Bicentennial Park on Cushman Avenue.

July 25—Community Band Concert with the Sweet Adelines, 7 p.m., Bicentennial Park on Cushman Avenue.

July 26—Community Band Concert with Sand Castle, 7 p.m., Bicentennial Park on Cushman Avenue.

July 26-28—Third Annual Sun Spiel, 7 p.m. Friday, 12-noon Saturday and Sunday, Fairbanks Curling Club, 1962 Second Avenue.

July 27—Continental Indigenous Council Pow Wow dance for public, with Native American dancers from U.S. and Canada, 7:30 p.m., fairgrounds. Sponsor: Baha'is of United States, Canada and Alaska. Information: 457-7808. No charge for admission.

July 28—Community Band Concert with Summer Arts Festival visiting jazz pianist Barney McClure, 12-noon, Bicentennial Park on Cushman Avenue.

July 31-Aug. 3—World Eskimo Indian Olympics, 7 p.m., Big Dipper. Preliminary events start daily at 10 a.m., Big Dipper. Events: knuckle-hop, four-man carry, ear-weight, ear-pull, race of the torch, fish cutting competition, man's greased pole walk, Eskimo and Indian stick pulls, muktuk eating contest, Eskimo and Indian dance competition, toe kick, drop the bomb, toe walk, elbow walk, one foot high kick, two foot high kick, one hand reach, Alaskan high kick, Queen contest, baby contest, parka and Native dress competition, blanket toss, seal skinning competition, and sewing competition. There will be Native arts and crafts on sale. Daytime activities include events throughout the day at Alaskaland. Information: 452-6646.

August 2-4—Deltana Fair in Delta Junction, 6 p.m. Friday to 6 p.m. Sunday, includes parade, carnival, over 60 booths, Alaskan skills contests, exhibits, sky-divers, arts and crafts, livestock judging, baby contest, blueberry pie competition, live music, etc. An agricultural

(See CALENDAR, page 29)

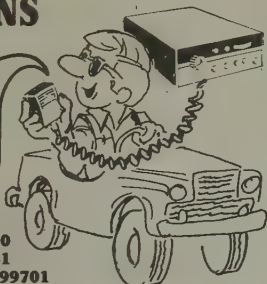
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The one-foot high kick is a real attention-getter at the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics held during the summer in Fairbanks.

(News-Miner file photo)

## Calloway featured in arts festival

When Alaska's summer arrives, most people take advantage of the long days and head outdoors. That doesn't mean Fairbanks' cultural life is forgotten until winter, though.

For two weeks this summer, 36 artists from the worlds of music, dance, theater and visual arts will gather for the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival.

The festival runs from July 29 through Aug. 11. The schedule of events is as follows:

- Jazz at the Pub will feature guest artists and registrants Thursday, Aug. 1, and Monday, Aug. 5, at 9 p.m., in the UAF Pub.

- An Evening of Classics will showcase guest artists at the Davis Concert Hall Friday, Aug. 2, at 8:15 p.m.

- The Night Fairbanks Danced is a benefit dance featuring Eddie Madden's orchestra and singing by Chris Calloway. The benefit will be held Saturday, Aug. 3, at 8 p.m. in Travelers Inn.

- Jazz at the Pub will highlight the sounds of the Festival Big Band at 9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6.

- An Evening of Classics will include the Festival Chorus, Romantic Chamber Chorale, Festival



### CAB CALLOWAY Return engagement

Orchestra and guest artists Thursday, Aug. 8, at 8:15 p.m. in the Davis Concert Hall.

- An Evening of Pops will feature the Pops Orchestra, Vocal Barbershop, guest artists and a cameo appearance by Cab Calloway. The musical evening will be held Friday, Aug. 9, at 8:15 p.m.

- An Evening of Jazz will spotlight Cab Calloway and Chris Calloway, along with guest jazz musicians, Saturday, Aug. 10, at 8:15 p.m. in the Davis Concert Hall.

- Table Settings, a theatre production of a James Lapine comedy, will be directed by Al Corona and acted by selected registrants. Performances will be in the Fairbanks Drama Association Theatre Sunday, Aug. 11, at times to be announced.

Informal noon recitals and lecture demonstrations will be announced closer to the festival. For more information, call 479-2876.

## CALENDAR . . .

(Continued from Page 28)

field day tour will be August 3. Information: 895-4215.

August 4—The 1985 Thunderbirds Air Show, Eielson Air Force Base. Time to be announced later. Information: 377-2116.

August 13-18—Tanana Valley Fair with midway, exhibits, rodeo, livestock, food, arts and crafts, entertainment including country western singer Hank Thompson who will sing Thursday, August 15; marionette puppeteer Phil Huber; steel drummer Jefferson Elie; storyteller Louise Kessel; illusionists Berga and Wanda; and comedy jugglers Two Complete Fools. Other special events include the Harvest Queen competition at 8 p.m. Wednesday, and a rodeo show Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 17-18. The Market Livestock Show and Sale will be held Friday, Aug. 16, at 6 p.m. Also scheduled is a battle of the bands, a breakdancing show, a baby show, a talent search and a tug of war.

August 16-17—Jean Shadrach

showing of flower paintings, 5-8 p.m. Friday; 12-noon-4 p.m. Saturday; House of Wood.

August 17-18—Horseshoe pitching contest, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. August 17; 12:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, fairgrounds.

The University of Alaska provides a variety of free specialized tours from July 8 to August 30. Following are some of those included. For information on the tour of the day, persons should call 474-NEWS or pick up a UAF flyer on tours.

- Alaska's Mineral Wealth, meet in Room 204, Brooks Building.

- Geophysical Institute, meet in lobby of Elvey Building, the tallest building on West Ridge.

- Agricultural Experiment Station Farm, meet by the sign at the farm on Alatna Drive (the old Nenana Highway), approximately one mile from the campus. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the

weather. Please do not pick any of the flowers and vegetables as this is a research farm.

- University of Alaska guided walking tour, every weekday at 9 a.m., meet at the UAF Museum. This tour takes approximately one to two hours.

- Creamer's Field Hike, a self-guided hike, begins in the parking lot adjacent to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office on College Road, just minutes from downtown Fairbanks. The trail winds through the Creamer's Field Migratory Wildlife Refuge, the site of an old dairy farm and a common stopover point for migratory birds.

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# Big sternwheelers offer daily cruises

**FAIRBANKS**—One herald of Fairbanks summer is the sight of the great riverboats Discovery I and Discovery II churning up and down the Chena and Tanana rivers.

The Binkley family built and operates the sternwheelers as a summer tour business. The sternwheelers are a reminder of the early days, when riverboats regularly navigated the waters of the Interior. In fact, members of the Binkley family have guided riverboats in the Interior since the gold rush days. Today the Binkleys treat visitors to a glimpse of historical and contemporary Alaska from the river.

From the end of May through the middle of September or so, the Binkleys make daily cruises. The Discovery II is licensed for 350 passengers, and the Discovery I can carry 150 passengers. Visitors board the shallow-draft paddlewheels from the bank of the Chena River. Several miles into the excursion, the Chena flows into the broader Tanana,

creating unusual patterns in the water as the rivers merge.

During the four-hour cruise, passengers see floatplanes, a sled dog kennel, traditional fishwheels, modern log cabins, and a river's eye view of Interior wilderness. With luck, beaver houses and bird life will be visible, too.

At the end of the downriver cruise, the boat stops at a trapper's camp and visitors have the chance to examine the log cabins, moose hides, fish racks and smoke house before boarding for the trip back. Native Alaska guides explain tanning techniques and answer questions.

For 30 years, Jim and Mary Binkley have guided visitors through this slice of Alaskan. Captain Jim and his three sons Skip, Jim Jr. and John are all licensed riverboat pilots. Nowadays, Jim Jr. and Skip do most of the navigating while Captain Jim spins tales about Alaskan folklore, history and his experiences on the river.

During gold rush days, Binkley's father, Captain Charley Binkley, navigated a riverboat on Southeastern rivers. Binkley learned the ropes from his uncles when he worked as a deckhand in Southeast Alaska. That experience stood him well when he piloted boats for the Army during World War II and later worked on Interior rivers.

Mary Binkley has been with the business all along, since the family started up in 1955 with the Discovery I. She acts as hostess, schedules trips and sells tickets. Their daughter, Marilee, is also a hostess and secretary.

Both vessels are all-weather boats. The Discovery II offers 200 glass-enclosed seats on the second deck. There is lots of room to stroll around the decks and admire the scenery from all angles.

Those interested in taking a riverboat excursion should make reservations by telephone or through travel agents. The



**Riverboat Discovery II loads passengers for Chena-Tanana cruise.**

ticket office opens at 1:15 p.m., and the Discovery II leaves from the Dale Road landing every day at 2 p.m. The cost of the four-hour trip is \$22.50 per person, \$15 for children age 3-12. Most hotels and motels have package deals

including transportation from downtown to the landing near the Fairbanks International Airport, but plenty of free parking is available to those with cars. Also, visitors may want to inquire about morning cruises.

## Interior people enjoy variety at the fair

No summer is complete without a fair, and people in the Interior look forward to the season's biggest event—the Tanana Valley Fair.

This year fair-goers will flock to the grounds between Aug. 13-18. The fairgrounds, located just off College Road, offer a little bit of everything to everybody, including a carnival, exhibits, games and entertainment.

Naturally, there's a midway, complete with head-twirling rides and games of chance. After you use

up your ride tickets, wander through the craft market and keep your eye out for good bargains. Some people attend just for the food—everything from cotton candy to shish kebabs to ice cream. Last year more than 60 food booths catered to hungry crowds.

The exhibit halls are popular, too. Local people bring their baked goods, sewing projects, photographs, poetry, jams and jellies, hobby collections, artworks and much more for display and judg-

ing. In the livestock halls, you can admire prize pigs, poultry, goats, sheep, rabbits, cattle and others. Businesses take their wares out of the store for a few days to display them and their services in the commercial exhibits.

Besides the traditional exhibits, the Fair Association rounds up lots of entertainers to perform throughout the fair. On Thursday, Aug. 15, country western singer Hank Thompson will croon for the crowds. Other performers who will appear 18 times each throughout the week include marionette pup-

peteer Phil Huber; steel drummer Jefferson Elie; storyteller Louise Kessel; illusionists Berga and Wanda; and comedy jugglers Two Complete Fools.

Other special events include the Harvest Queen competition for local talented beauties Wednesday at 8 p.m., and a rodeo show Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 17-18. The Market Livestock Show and Sale will be held Friday, Aug. 16, at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact the Tanana Valley Fair Association at 452-3750.



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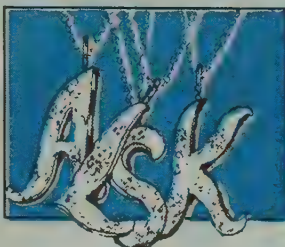
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# Golden Days lets city relive its colorful past

FAIRBANKS—Fairbanks slips into its past for a week each July to celebrate Golden Days, a festival honoring Felix Pedro's discovery of gold near Fairbanks in 1902.

During the week-long celebration it's not uncommon to see residents strolling through Bicentennial Park in full turn-of-the-century costume. The celebration, which runs from July 20-28, offers residents and visitors the opportunity to participate in countless activities organized by the local Chamber of Commerce.

Along with a grand parade scheduled to march through the downtown area July 27, events this year include a Felix Pedro look-alike contest, a mustache, beard and hairy leg contest, foot races, a bicycle race and a chess tournament.

The Chamber is also organizing a parade slated to glide down the Chena River July 21.

Each year the celebration

attracts more people to a growing list of events, according to Chamber of Commerce spokeswoman Janet Halvarson, who's heading the celebration this year.

One of the special events planned for the week is the annual rededication of the Felix Pedro monument at 17 mile of the Steese Highway, where the Italian immigrant discovered gold. The spot will mark the starting point for a walk, foot race and wheelchair race to Fairbanks.

One activity is sure to grab a visitor's attention. Without a Golden Days pin, button or old-time clothing, an innocent bystander can get thrown in the pokey. That is a portable jail used to "arrest" guilty parties who can bribe their way out of jail for a small amount.

Other activities include a flower show, golf tournament, body-building contest, a starving artists art show and sale, air races and a miner's ball.



The highlight of Golden Days festivities is the parade.

(News-Miner file photos)



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# Fairbanks owes a lot to Barnette, Pedro

**FAIRBANKS**—Fairbanks is where it is today mainly because of a con man named E.T. Barnette and a prospector named Felix Pedro.

The former was heading upriver with a load of trading goods in 1901 when the steamer he was travelling on ran into low water on the Chena River and had to turn back. Barnette and his goods were unloaded in the middle of nowhere by the captain near the present site of First Avenue and Cushman Street.

Barnette got lucky the next year when Pedro, an Italian prospector who had covered great distances on foot, struck gold about 14 miles north of where Barnette got stuck.

The gold rush that followed gave Fairbanks its place on the map. By the way, the town was named for Sen. Charles Fairbanks of Indiana, who later became vice president under Teddy Roosevelt.

Barnette named the town after Fairbanks as a favor to Judge James Wickersham, another big figure in the town's history, and a man who admired the Indiana senator.

Barnette became the town's first mayor, but it wasn't long before he

also became the "most hated man in Fairbanks" because he was involved in a bank failure that cost many their savings. For more on the town founder see "E.T. Barnette, the Strange Story of the Man Who Founded Fairbanks," a book by Terrence Cole.

By 1910 the population of the gold camp and the surrounding area had grown to about 11,000. The town nearly disappeared during the hard times that came with World War I, but there was a resurgence later

with the building of the Alaska Railroad to Seward and the construction of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, now the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

The next big boom came during World War II when the Alaska Highway was built and the military came to the territory in a big way. The Japanese attacked and occupied islands in the Aleutians and the United States began to look to the defense of its vulnerable northern frontier.

Locally, thousands of military personnel came to Ladd Field, now Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base.

Gold mining and the military remain important factors in Interior Alaska's economy, but the driving force today is the oil industry.

Oil was discovered on the North Slope in 1968 at Prudhoe Bay, 390 miles north of Fairbanks on the shores of the Arctic Ocean.



**FELIX PEDRO**  
*Lucky prospector*

## Take a tour and find the historical Fairbanks

One of the best ways to get a glimpse of Fairbanks' past is to join one of the walking tours sponsored by the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The guided tours (starting May 20) begin at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily and take about one hour. The route covers about ¾ of a mile in the downtown area and the guides will give you a good overview of how the town along the Chena developed.

There is also a self-guided walk-

ing tour available at the bureau's log cabin, located at 550 First Ave. near the Cushman Street Bridge.

There are many other historical and interesting places to visit in the Fairbanks area. Here are just a few:

- **The Pump House:** This popular restaurant at 1.3 Mile Chena Pump Road is in a building that was once crucial to the mining industry here. The pumps that used to move water over the hills to nearby



mines have been removed and the building has been renovated into a modern facility. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

- **Cripple Creek Resort:** You can hear nightly recitations of Robert Service poetry at this tavern seven miles west of Fairbanks near the Ester turnoff. Ester is the site of a former gold camp.

- **Courthouse Square:** This landmark at the corner of Second

Avenue and Cushman Street is being rehabilitated as condominium office space. It was built in the early 1930s when concrete buildings were a rarity in Alaska. Don't miss the new visitors center in the basement where information is available on Alaska's wilderness parks.

- **Old F.E. Company:** This restaurant is at Mile 27.9 of the Steese Highway, a nice drive over Cleary Summit north of Fairbanks.


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# Discovery in Circle led to great 'rush'

By ROSE RYBACHEK

The lure of gold, that illusive yellow "heavy metal" has driven men into uncharted lands for centuries. The California '49ers, after struggling with unbelievable hardships and unknown dangers on their quest for the yellow metal, turned their faces north when they found the "easy" gold in California was drying up. Gold was discovered in Alaska in 1848 and, even though the Russians (owners of Alaska until 1867) tried to suppress the news of a gold discovery on the Kenai Peninsula, word spread. And the rush was on.

Miners flocked by steamship out of the ports of Seattle and various cities in California. Some landed in Southeast Alaska and tackled the rigorous overland routes into the gold fields of the Interior. Others traveled the rivers, and still others began searching for the illusive metal along the beaches. The discovery that sparked the Interior "rush" began in the Circle area in 1892.

## CIRCLE

In late 1892 the discovery of gold on Birch Creek heralded the start of the pre-Klondike gold rush era in that region. The upper portion of the Birch was extensively explored and prospected between 1893 and 1896. With the discovery of gold on the Klondike in 1896, interest in the Birch Creek drainage was temporarily slowed as miners stampeded across the border to the Yukon.

After the glow of the Klondike strike wore off, interest in the Birch Creek and Circle Mining District was rekindled, and the area saw continuous production until World War I. Then the younger miners went off to war, while the older ones continued working their mines. There were many support industries that grew up in the Birch Creek/Circle City area. Before

1900, regular deliveries of books from the Circle City Miners Association Library to branch libraries on the gulches were a regular part of the summer mining season.

Civilization quickly followed the miners into Circle City. In 1896 not only was the Circle City Post Office established (which still provides mail service) but civil government came to the region with the establishment of the Customs House. When a magistrate was sent to Circle City, he found established records for mining on Birch Creek and its tributaries. Recording offices were located at Circle City and Circle Hot Springs. In fact, the first claims from the Fairbanks area had to be recorded in Circle City, as it was the closest recording office. Timber became a major industry, as did trapping, but the mainstay of the area was, and continues today, to be mining. The Circle Mining District currently is the largest active mining area in the state of Alaska.

## NOME

Some of the miners, those who opted to stay with the steamships, ended their voyage on the beaches at Nome. Mining in Nome began in 1899 when Jafet Lindeberg, perhaps the best known and most talked of character in the history of Nome, and two associates made the discovery of gold. News of the discovery spread like wildfire and soon an unruly stampede was made to the new diggings. The history of the Nome gold strike is wild and wooly.

During the height of the excitement, an estimated 20,000 men were engaged in beach mining. The summer's output of gold was estimated at \$3 million. There is currently no overland route into the Nome area.

Nome" was begun in the 1950s.



Gold panning is a favorite visitor pastime in Nome.

## FAIRBANKS

During the summer of 1902, Captain E.T. Barnette pushed his heavily laden boat up the Chena River, only to be stopped by shallow shoal water at a point that's now the heart of Fairbanks. Barnette established a trading post at that spot and shortly thereafter Felix Pedro discovered gold on the creeks below Cleary Summit about 15 miles from present-day Fairbanks. Supplies for the new Fairbanks mining district were freighted by riverboat from the Yukon River, up the Tanana River and then up the Chena to Fairbanks.

Fairbanks was central to the mining camps in the area. Both placer and hardrock mines developed in the immediate vicinity.

In 1923, the railroad was completed from Seward to Fairbanks and winter freeze-up no longer signaled an end to the shipping season as bulk freight could reach Fairbanks by rail year-round. In later years, the Steese (to Circle City), Elliott (to Livengood/Manley), the Taylor (to 40-Mile) and the Alaska Highway (to the Lower 48) were built.

The Fairbanks district ultimately produced almost eight million ounces of gold. There are currently several active gold mining operations in the Fairbanks district.

## KANTISHNA

The Kantishna mining region of Alaska lies in the northern foothills of the Alaska Range and includes portions of the basins of the Nenana

and Kantishna rivers. Gold was first discovered in the area in 1898, but little actual mining occurred until 1903. Getting supplies into the area created numerous problems.

## LIVENGOOD

The last major gold discovery in Alaska came when gold placers were discovered on Livengood Creek on July 24, 1914, by prospectors Jay Livengood and N.R. Hudson. Shortly after Livengood and Hudson's discovery a small cadre of miners and prospectors flowed into the district. According to historical accounts, a small community was established on the north side of Livengood Creek about five miles from the mouth of the creek. The town of Livengood was located in, and was the mining center of the Tolovana Mining District. In the first year of systematic mining (1915), much prospecting was done but only 10 mines operated on a commercial basis. The summers of 1916 and 1917 saw more than 50 ongoing operations. Community growth matched mining growth. As more gold was mined from the district, a transportation route was needed to transfer gold to banks and to bring in supplies.

During 1916 two systems were devised for this purpose: a general route overland by trail from Olmes, and a river route freighting up the Yukon, Tanana and the Tolovana rivers. Olmes was about 55 miles from Livengood and when in use, mostly in the winter, travelers had access to numerous roadhouses. The overland route was upgraded by the army during World War II, and finally converted into a modern gravel road in the 1950s.

By the end of 1919, Livengood was a shell of its former self. The reason, according to geologist R.M. Overbeck, was due "to lack of water resulting from the exceptionally dry summer, the scarcity of labor (World War I), and to the high cost of supplies." Mining on a reduced scale has continued until the present day in the Livengood district. One of the largest gold placer deposits in Alaska lies under and around the remains of the town of Livengood. However, an attempt to mine that site in the early 1980s led to disaster for the company—probably due to some of the same factors cited as a reason for the slow-down in the first place.

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# Alaskaland's exhibits are on 'don't miss' list

By FRED PRATT  
Correspondent

**FAIRBANKS**—A trip to Fairbanks wouldn't be complete without a visit to Alaskaland.

Constructed in 1967 to celebrate the centennial of Alaska's purchase from the Russians, the 40-acre park offers the visitor a variety of entertaining diversions.

Located on Airport Road near the Chena River mid-way between the Fairbanks International Airport and downtown Fairbanks, the city park includes shops, restaurants and exhibits giving visitors an idea of what it was like to live in the Interior during the early days of its development.

Although many of the displays and exhibits are undergoing renovation and won't be open this summer, there is more than enough to do and see in Alaskaland. The park is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

A first stop might be the Visitor's Center, located in the cargo hold of the Sternwheeler Nenana. Details can also be obtained by calling 452-4529.

Two trains, one authentic and one on rubber wheels, provide transportation to, and within, the park. The tram train makes an hourly run between downtown Fairbanks and Alaskaland. There is no charge. The Crooked Creek & Whiskey Island Railroad, a real train, circles the park, offering riders a

different perspective of Alaskaland.

Overnight camping in the parking lot will again be available. Campers are asked to find a spot and then register in the park. The fee is \$5 nightly with a maximum of five nights. Playground facilities within the park will also be open.

The Palace Theater and Saloon, one of Alaskaland's most popular attractions, has undergone a complete facelift. Accompanying that effort, the Palace plans to expand its nightly shows, introducing a locally produced Disney-style multi-media musical to go with Jim Bell's all new musical revue, "Va VA VOOM."

Among the other attractions:

- **Gold Rush Town**—Plenty of browsing available here. Many of the quaint buildings, originally homes located downtown during the early gold rush days, now house small shops featuring Alaska crafts. Alaskan photographs, jewelry and food, among other items, are available.

- **Native Village**—Located along the Chena River, the village is being renovated this summer and will be closed for the season.

- **Mining Valley**—Without the mining industry, Fairbanks might still be an undeveloped wilderness. In this display are the sluice boxes, gold dredge buckets and stamp mills which were used in the early

1900s to recover the gold that brought thousands of prospectors to the Interior. A steam shovel used in the construction of the Panama Canal and later moved to Alaska before it was retired is on display.

- **Sternwheeler Nenana**—One of the classic modes of transportation in the early days, the Nenana carries with it a long and interesting history of plying Alaska's inland waters. Still under renovation, the cargo and saloon decks are open for observation.

- **The Big Stampede**—Rusty Huerlin, a pioneer artist who first came to Alaska in 1916, painted this unique set of 19 murals depicting "The Big Stampede" for gold in Alaska. This display is located in a special building near the Pioneer Museum.

- **Alaska Salmon Bake**—In addition to its evening menu, the Salmon Bake is offering lunch for the first time, beginning June 10. White king salmon will be featured from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5 to 9 p.m. daily. The Salmon Bake operates its own bus service to and from Fairbanks' major hotels.

- **The Civic Center**—A round structure decorated with outsized Native dance masks, the Civic Center was renovated in 1982 and now is home to frequent performing and visual art shows. The theater is closed for the summer but the exhibit hall remains open.



Alaskaland's tram train makes an hourly run between downtown Fairbanks and Alaskaland. There is no charge.

(News-Miner file photo)

## The changing seasons displayed on screen

**FAIRBANKS**—Summer visitors to Alaska can catch a glimpse of the state's seasons without sticking around for winter's freezing temperatures. With a trip to Ester or Alaskaland, viewers can watch a 45-minute show that brings Alaska's change of seasons to the screen.

Backed by classical music, the producer of the "Photosymphony" show, photographer Leroy Zimmerman, promises a spectacular photosymphony. Zimmerman combines colorful photographs from three projectors simultaneously to form a panorama on a 30- or 36-foot screen.

This summer two shows are offered at two locations.

"Once Around the Sun," a journey through the Alaskan wilderness, includes panoramas of the northern lights and landscapes. This program is presented every night throughout the summer in the Firehouse Theater at the Cripple

Creek Resort in Ester, about 10 miles west of town. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. and costs \$4 for adults and \$2 for children.

Also, "Crown of Light," featuring the aurora borealis, will be presented Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Alaskaland at 6:30 and 7:30 in the Exhibit Hall. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday the cinerama of the northern lights will be shown at the Ester Fire House Theater at the Cripple Creek Resort. Showtimes are 6:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children and free for infants. Doors open one half hour before all shows.

The production at Alaskaland will open about the second week in June. The shows at Ester are open now. For information 479-2130.

"There is nothing funnier than the human animal," according to Walt Disney, cartoonist-producer (1901-1966).

## Palace will show off its new face

From the stage to the atmosphere to the decor, everything about Alaskaland's Palace Theater and Saloon—even the name—is new this year.

One of the park's most venerable institutions, the Palace has undergone a \$250,000 renovation which includes bringing the building up to code, an expanded stage, a state of the art lighting and sound system plus new furnishings and some of the old ones to give it a turn-of-the-century feel.

"As soon as you set foot in the door, it's like a time machine," Tracy Johnson-Wade said of the facelift.

"We've created an atmosphere and gotten more away from the liquor aspect of the business and more into the entertainment," said Rick Winther, who leases the building from the city of Fairbanks which has contributed to the renovation.

In line with the Palace's slogan—"A brand new, old favorite"—is the return of piano-playing Jim Bell and his all-new musical vaudeville revue, "Va-VA-VOOM." Known wide and far for his showmanship and musical abilities, Bell begins his 15th year at the Palace, joined by the fabulous "Va-VA-VOOM Girls" and the irrepressible "Boom-dee-yay Boys." Johnson-Wade and sister, Abbie Johnson, have put together "Living It Up In Alaska," a multi-media production added this season that takes visitors through a whirlwind tour of Alaskan lifestyles and what it's like to live in the 49th state.

And tied in with the two productions are the cast, who'll double as waiters and waitresses, mingling

with the crowd in costumes recalling such notable characters as Susitna Sal, a Calamity Jane take-off, a phony French Contessa or a nimble-fingered card shark.

The Palace's summer opening is set for May 23. One show will be

presented nightly until June 10. Bell's "Va-VA-VOOM," will run Wednesday through Saturday while "Living It Up In Alaska," is scheduled seven nights a week until the Palace's closing on September 20.

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# City has own Olympics and they are unique

By KAREN McCrackin  
Staff Writer

**FAIRBANKS**—When the annual World Eskimo-Indian Olympics opens with the Race of the Torch this year, the celebration of 25 years of games will begin. But although participants will observe the quarter-century anniversary of the games, the events themselves are hundreds of years old.

The 1985 games are scheduled for July 31-Aug. 3 at the Big Dipper Ice Arena. In celebration of its silver anniversary, a special art exhibit featuring 25 years of history and photography will be displayed on the mezzanine, including demonstrations of several ancient Native games no longer played.

Athletes are drawn from cities, towns and villages throughout Alaska to compete in traditional games of strength, speed and endurance. For centuries, Native people of the Arctic have gathered in small villages for friendly competition, laughter, visiting and story-telling during long winter nights and summer days. The host village always provided food and lodging, visitors brought news from other villages and expanded opportunities for challenge.

In 1961 the games were organized on a statewide basis by two Wien Airways employees who feared that, with the large influx of non-Natives, the games might become forgotten. The games were enthusiastically received, and by 1973 officially became known by its current name, the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics.

The most grueling sport during the four-day event is the knuckle hop. So called because athletes

propel themselves forward by hopping on their curled fists, the technique imitates the movement of a seal as it pushes itself along dry ground with its flippers. Rules require a straight back and stomach about six inches off the floor. At the signal, athletes bounce down the hardwood gymnasium floor until they can't go any further.

However, because it is the most punishing sport of the Olympics, the knuckle hop is the last event of the games. Other Native sports that proceed it include the greased pole walk, the ear-pulling contest, the four-man carry, the two-foot high kick and the blanket toss.

As the name implies, the greased pole walk involves contestants trying to walk down a six-inch diameter peeled log that's been smeared with cooking grease. The winner is the person who can walk down the raised log the farthest—a talent that came in handy for early Indians who used logs like bridges to cross Alaska's many streams.

The ear-pulling contest pits two men sitting opposite one another, a loop of twine strung from one man's ear to his opponent's. The object is to pull back until someone gives in. Stubborn contestants can walk away with cut or torn ears.

The four-man carry is a weight-lifting contest Native style. Four men, weighing a total of 600 pounds, cling to the front, back and sides of the competitor. With his excess baggage, the man will walk as far as he can.

The most glamorous event during the games is the two-foot high-kick, a sport that combine a gymnast's agility with a high diver's

precision. The object is for contestants to kick a ruff of caribou fur suspended over their heads. The difficult part is doing it with both feet at the same time.

A product of early whale-hunting days, the sport evolved from a tradition that announced the successful harpooning of one of the huge mammals. Before radios made it obsolete, a runner from a whaling boat would be let off on the ice after a whale was struck. He would announce the news to nearby settlements by jumping up and kicking both feet in front of him—a distinctive signal of success that did not require the messenger to run into each individual settlement.

Of all the events, the blanket toss of Nalukatuq, as it is called by Natives, is the biggest crowd pleaser. An Eskimo version of the trampoline, 40 strong men hold onto rope handles attached to a large caribou hide blanket and in a heave-ho fashion, rocket the blanket rider into the air.

According to organizers, the overall picture painted by the Olympic festivities and the traditions that they represent is of limitless value for instilling pride in Native children and young adults. It also carries a valuable message for those unfamiliar with Alaska Native lifestyles.

"The message is one of energy, majesty and impressive humanity," organizers say. "It is of a people coping with their own environment and sharing their feelings and experiences with one another in a fashion from which the Western culture could greatly benefit."



The three-man carry is a real test of strength at the Indian-Eskimo Olympics.  
(News-Miner file photo)

## Camping is a cheap way to go

**FAIRBANKS**—Planning to camp your way through Interior Alaska? State waysides and BLM campgrounds are free. If there is a charge for a public campground, it

is noted. Commercial campsites charge fees.

Here is a list of state, federal and private campgrounds available:

### ALASKA HIGHWAY

**Deadman Lake:** Mile 1249 Alaska Highway, 16 units, toilets, no water.

**Lakeview:** Mile 1256 Alaska Highway, 8 units, toilets, no water.

**Tok River:** Mile 1309 Alaska Highway, 10 units, toilets, water.

**Moon Lake:** Mile 1332 Alaska Highway, 15 units, toilets, water.

**Gerstle River Wayside:** Mile 1393 Alaska Highway, highway turnout, no water.

**Clearwater:** Mile 1415 Alaska Highway, 18 units, toilets, water.

(See **CAMPING**, page 39)



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## Mushing still a way of life

**FAIRBANKS**—Dog mushing is to Alaska's Interior what horses are to Texas. No animal is more popular in the Arctic than man's best friend.

Man's association with dogs in Alaska dates to ancient societies, when dogs were used in front of a sled as a means of transportation or beside the sled as a hunting companion. Later, during the Gold Rush, man de-

pended on dog teams to haul mail from one frozen camp to another.

Today, dogs are important in both work and play. Families living in the Bush, far from Interior cities, often use dog teams to gain access to their winter traplines. Rangers working within Denali National Park and Preserve in the winter use dog teams to patrol hard-to-reach

corners of the 6-million acre expanse. Some entrepreneurs even use dog teams to take visitors on guided tours of the frosted north.

Other mushers opt for a lighter load and faster tracks. Hundreds of recreational mushers participate in both the long- and short-distance races throughout the Interior.

The mushers racing in the

1,049-mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race and those competing in the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race train throughout most of the year to prepare their dogs for the rigors of the trail. The most concentrated training occurs in the winter, when the dogs run on frozen rivers and over gusty hilltops. But visitors may also see  
(See MUSHING, page 41)

## CAMPING . . .

(Continued from page 38)

**KOA:** Tundra Lodge, Tok Junction, full hookups, gift shop, motel, restaurant.

**Golden Bear:** Tok Junction, full hookups, motel, gift shop, goldpanning.

**Dot Lake Lodge:** Mile 1361 Alaska Highway, overnight camper parking, cafe, gas.

**Cherokee Two:** Mile 1412.5 Alaska Highway, full hookups, dump station, cafe, bar.

**Bergstad's Trailer Court:** Mile 1421.5 Alaska Highway, full hookups, dump station, laundry.

### RICHARDSON HIGHWAY

**Donnelly Creek:** Mile 238 Richardson Highway, 12 units, toilets, water.

**Quartz Lake:** Mile 277.8 Richardson Highway, 16 units, toilets, water.

**Harding Lake:** Mile 321.4

Richardson Highway, 89 units, toilets, water.

**Roads End R/V Park:** Mile 356 Richardson Highway, restrooms, water, showers, \$6 parking fee. Full hookup extra.

**Big D Mobile Home Park:** Mile 271.9 Richardson Highway, laundry.

### CHENA HOT SPRINGS ROAD

**27 Mile Campground:** 27 Mile Chena Hot Springs Rd., 38 units, toilets, water.

**39 Mile Campground:** 39 Mile Chena Hot Springs Rd., 18 units, toilets, water.

**Chena River State Recreation Area:** 27 Mile Chena Hot Springs Rd., wilderness camping in all areas, no facilities.

**Rainbow Valley R/V Court:** Rainbow Drive off Chena Hot Springs Road, full hookups.

**Chena Hot Springs:** 57 Mile Che-

na Hot Springs Road, restrooms, showers, open all seasons, no limit.

### FAIRBANKS AND NORTH POLE AREA

**Chena Lakes Recreation Area:** Off Richardson Highway just south of North Pole, all campground facilities available.

**Chena River Wayside:** University Avenue, Fairbanks, toilets, water.

**Tanana Valley Campground:** 2 Mile College Rd., restrooms, water, showers, laundry, dump station, tables, fireplaces. Tents welcome, \$6 per night.

**Norlite Campground:** 1660 Mile Peger Rd., restrooms, showers, laundry, water, dump station, complete hookups, grocery and liquor store.

**Alaskaland:** Airport Way, parking only, 24-hour limit, \$3 fee.

(See CAMPING, page 41)

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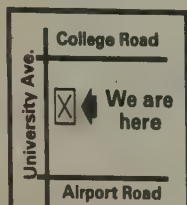
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# Interior fishing is tops

## Fly out or try it off the road

By CHRISTOPHER BATIN  
Correspondent

**FAIRBANKS**—It happens every year. Thousands of visitors driving to Alaska bypass Interior lakes and streams for the more publicized fishing areas to the south. They're looking for those Alaska sportfish species that have been immortalized in books and magazines. They want to feel the hard-hitting strike of a king salmon, tempt an Arctic grayling to rise to a carefully presented Black Gnat or thrill over the tail-dancing acrobatics of a brightly colored rainbow trout.

What these people don't know is that all these species, and even some not available in the south, are common in the waters of Interior Alaska. Catching these fish is as easy as pulling off the side of the road and making a cast or two, or as adventurous as planning a week-long fly-out fishing trip to the lakes of the Brooks Range. Undoubtedly, the best way to experience Interior fishing is to sample a little bit of both.

### FLY-OUT FISHING

Because of the lack of road systems in Alaska, much of the excellent fishing is accessible only by aircraft. These waterways receive very little fishing pressure, are removed from the crowds and offer a good chance of success for a variety of fish species. In addition, you have the opportunity to "flight-see," which is a unique way to view Interior Alaska's valleys, rivers and mountains.

Art Warbelow, operator of 40 Mile Air Service out of Tok, offers a variety of fly-out packages that are representative of what you'll find here in the Interior.

"One of the most popular is an introductory fly-out for grayling or pike," Warbelow said. "We drop you off at a remote lake and return to pick you up at a predetermined time. You provide all the camping gear, fishing tackle and food. The cost is \$149 per person."

"For people with a limited amount of time, we have an Executive Timesaver. This is basically like our Introductory Special, only the pilot stays with you throughout the day, and brings you back in plenty of time to meet your trip schedule. This trip costs \$149 per person, two-person minimum.

Warbelow also mentioned several other fly-out options for trophy lake trout and pike, where the pilot stays with you for an entire day of fishing. Cost varies from \$279 to \$299 per person, two-person minimum.

If you're looking for something truly remote, charter a flight on Arctic Circle Air to Bettles. There, contact David Ketscher at Sourdough Outfitters. They offer secluded sportfishing trips into "The Gates of the Arctic," the "crown jewel" of the National Park System.

There, amidst the splendor of the famous Arrigetch Peaks, you can



Flyfishing in the Interior offers the sportsfisherman a unique kind of challenge.

fish for grayling, sheefish, lake trout, Arctic char, pike and salmon. Ketscher offers a 10-day float trip for \$1,200, which includes all gear, or you can opt for a remote, sportfishing cabin where you can fish a lake or river at your own pace. Don't worry about crowds either, as the nearest road is over 100 miles away.

Or if you prefer, there are numerous guided fishing trips down many of the river systems in the Brooks Range. Many anglers feel a float trip through this section of Alaska is the best part of their entire trip. You can sign up for any of the guided trips, or custom make one, based on your personal fishing preferences.

It's best to make a call to reserve your fly-in fishing trip. But in many cases, a fly-out operator may be able to squeeze you into the day's schedule should you decide on a fishing trip at the last minute.

### BY ROAD

One of the best northern pike hotspots in the Interior is the Minto Flats fishery. Take the Elliott Highway out of Fairbanks to New Minto Village Road, 39 miles west of Livengood. Best access to the flats is via a small canoe or boat. Burbot, sheefish and whitefish can also be caught there. Many anglers allow at least three to four days for this trip.

However, you may want to stay longer once you find out how cooperative the pike are at Minto! Be sure to bring plenty of lures!

If your heart is set on the jumping acrobatics of a fat, lake rainbow, then you'll find fewer lakes in the Interior that can match the fishing at Donna and Little Donna lakes on the Alaska Highway, and Quartz, Rainbow and Koole on the Richardson Highway (see map). The rainbows in Donna Lake are fat and sassy from feeding on a diet of fresh-

water shrimp. Frozen shrimp and small white or gray lures, 1/32-ounce and smaller, are ideal. Other waters near Fairbanks with good rainbow and bonus grayling fishing are the Chena River Recreation Area, near North Pole, and the nearby Chena River.

From Delta Junction to the Alaska-Canada border, anglers have a variety of fishing waters from which to choose. Tetlin Lake, between Northway and 40-Mile, is an excellent northern pike fishery. Access, however, is strictly by riverboat or short fly-in. For those anglers with a boat, don't pass up the Delta Clearwater River at Mile 1415 for grayling and burbot. Anglers fishing this area often see bison roaming the nearby fields and banks.

Delta Junction to Fairbanks has the Goodpasture River, which offers excellent grayling fishing. It's accessible by boat via the Delta Clearwater or Tanana rivers. Quartz Lake at Mile 277.8 has excellent fishing for rainbow trout up to 4 pounds. The Salcha River at Mile 325.3 offers fair fishing for grayling, king and chum salmon. Use foot trails along the river to reach the best areas. However, a boat is preferred to reach the deep pools and runs that attract salmon.

Heading from Delta Junction to Valdez on the Richardson Highway, anglers have a wide choice of fishing opportunities. Fielding Lake at Mile 200.5, Summit Lake at Mile 194 and Paxson Lake at Mile 181 all offer good fishing for lake trout, grayling, whitefish and burbot. The entire month of June and the first part of July are best. Later in the summer, use a boat to reach fish in deeper water. From Mile 128 to 148, the Gulkana River offers excellent fishing for king salmon, sockeye salmon, rainbow trout and grayling. Fishing trails are at Mile 129.1, 136.7, 139.6, 141.4, 146.5 and

148. And for the angler with the craving for some saltwater fishing for halibut, rockfish and salmon, the Port of Valdez at Mile 0 offers charter boat services throughout the summer months. Anglers often enjoy good fishing for pink salmon

by casting from shore along stretches of sandy or gravel beach.

The most popular fishing spot on the Steese Highway is the Chatanika River. The numerous pull-offs along the river from Mile 29 to 39

(See FISHING, page 41)



Lake trout caught in the Brooks Range make a mighty tasty meal for several lucky anglers.



# And here's how to catch those fish . . .

By **CHRISTOPHER BATIN**  
Correspondent

**FAIRBANKS**—The following is meant to serve as an introduction to Interior sportfish, with tips on suggested lures and facts on where to find them.

## GRAYLING

**Where Found:** Healthy populations scattered through the streams, rivers and lakes of the Interior. The Chena River offers the best grayling fishing accessible by road in the Interior.

**Average Size:** Nine to 14 inches, with lengths up to 19 inches caught on occasion in the larger lakes such as Tanana and some fly-out lakes in the Brooks Range foothills.

**Trophy Weight:** Grayling over 3 pounds qualify for a trophy award from the state of Alaska.

**Lures, Tackle:** Small dry and wet flies, size 0 and 1 Mepps, small spoons, salmon eggs.

## SHEEFISH

**Where Found:** Largest populations available via fly-out to the Kobuk or Yukon tributaries. Minto Flats and lower Chena River have small populations available in mid-summer.

**Average size:** Seven to 15 pounds in local waters, up to 30 pounds in the Yukon and Kobuk systems.

**Trophy weight:** Sheefish over 30 pounds qualify for a trophy award from the state of Alaska.

**Lures, Tackle:** Bright, shiny spoons, large silver spinners, gaudy flies with plenty of tinsel. Use medium-action tackle with reels filled with 10- to 17-pound test monofilament.

## BURBOT

**Where Found:** calm, deep pools of the Chatanika, Tanana and Yukon rivers. Weedy bays in lakes such as Summit, Paxson and Long.

**Average Size:** Two to five pounds, with larger weights occurring during the winter months prior to spawning.

**Trophy Size:** Burbot over eight pounds qualify for a trophy award from the state of Alaska.

**Lures, Tackle:** fresh, oily herring, whitefish or salmon scraps or

other bait fished on the bottom work well. They will strike lures that are fished deep and slow.

## RAINBOW AND LANDLOCKED SILVER SALMON

**Where Found:** Several top rainbow-producing lakes are Quartz, Little Donna, Bluff Cabin, Koole and Chena Lake in the Chena Recreation Area. For silvers, try Birch, Little Harding and Lost lakes.

**Average Size:** Anglers can expect catches from eight inches to five pounds for rainbows, up to 16 inches for silvers.

**Trophy Weight:** There are no trophy rainbow fisheries in the Interior. Anglers looking for trophy rainbows need to fish Southcentral or Bristol Bay-Illiamna waters. A rainbow over 15 pounds will qualify for a trophy award from the state of Alaska. There is no award category for landlocked silvers.

**Lures, Tackle:** Small spoons and spinners, fluorescent red plugs trolled slowly along shoreline structure, salmon eggs fished on a slip-sinker rig or beneath a float, No. 4 and 6 streamer and nymphs, corn, marshmallows and canned shrimp. Use light line and tackle for best success.

## PIKE

**Where Found:** Found throughout the Interior, with the best waters being Minto Flats, Tanana and Yukon rivers and many fly-out lakes such as Wien, Minchumina and lakes of the Brooks Range.

**Average Weight:** Five to 15 pounds.

**Trophy Weight:** Pike over 15 pounds qualify for a trophy award from the state of Alaska.

**Lures, Tackle:** Gold, bronze, silver and red and white spoons work well for pike. Topwater plugs work well in the spring. Try dead bait in deep lakes.

## LAKE TROUT

**Where Found:** In lakes along the Denali and Richardson highways, and south slope waters of the Brooks Range. Some of the top lakes are Tangle, Summit, Fielding, Paxson, Tanada, and Louise.

**Average Weight:** Lakers will run between 2 and 10 pounds, especially in the early spring right after ice out.

**Trophy Weight:** Any laker over 20 pounds qualifies for a trophy award from the state of Alaska.

**Lures, Tackle:** In the spring, try bucktail jigs, shiny spoons and vibrating lures and trolling shallow water with diving plugs. Later in the summer, troll deep with these same lures. Ultralight tackle is good for early season fishing, while heavy tackle is needed for mid-summer laker fishing.

## ARCTIC CHAR

**Where Found:** Most large populations of char are found in the watersheds of the Brooks Range

## CAMPING . . .

(Continued from page 39)

**Santa Claus House:** North Pole, free overnight parking.

**Fairbanks Golf and Country Club:** Yankovich Road, 3 units, free.

**Monson Motel Campground:** 1321 Karen Way, hookups, laundry, showers, groceries, 30 spaces.

**Rainbow Valley Recreational Vehicle Court:** hookups, showers, water, 18 spaces.

**Road's End:** 1463 Wescott Lane, hookups, showers, water, 60 spaces.

**Tanana Valley Campground:** 2 Mile College Road, laundry, showers, water, no hookups, 31 spaces.

**North Pole Park:** free, 10 spaces, campfires.

**Chena Pump Wayside:** 4.5 Mile Chena Pump Road, free, no limit.

## STEESE HIGHWAY

**Upper Chatanika River:** 39 Mile Steese Highway, 25 units, toilets, water.

**Cripple Creek:** 60 Mile Steese Highway, 21 spaces, restrooms, water.

**Bedrock Creek:** 119 Mile Steese Highway, 8 spaces, restrooms, water.

**Central Motor Inn & Campground:** 127.5 Steese Highway, 20 spaces, hookups, laundry, showers.

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(An outdoor correspondent for the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Christopher Batin is author of the book "How to Catch Alaska's Trophy Sportfish.")

and along the northwest coast around Kotzebue and Nome.

**Average Weight:** Fish from two to eight pounds are common, especially in late summer.

**Trophy Weight:** Any char over 10 pounds qualifies for a trophy award from the state of Alaska.

**Lures, Tackle:** bronze spoons, spinners, large, attractor patterns are best for rivers. In lakes try trolling with chrome wobbling plugs, silver flutter spoons, vibrating lures, and flashy streamers.

## SALMON

**Where Found:** Small populations of kings, chums and silver salmon enter the Chena, Chatanika and Salcha rivers in July and August.

**Long Creek Lodge:** 45.5 Steese Highway, 11 spaces, hookups, laundry, showers.

**Turtle Club:** 10 Mile Steese Highway, 15 spaces, free

**Yukon Trading Post:** 161 Steese Highway, groceries, water, fireplaces, free, 30 spaces.

**Circle Campground:** 162 Mile Steese Highway, groceries, free, unlimited space.

**Upper Chatanika River Recreation Area:** 39 Mile Steese Highway, free, 25 spaces.

## PARKS HIGHWAY

**Summer Shades Campground and Tumwater Lake Lodge:** Mile 290 Parks Highway, Nenana, full hookups, dump station, groceries and liquor.

**McKinley KOA Campground:** Mile 248.5 Parks Highway, Healy, 50 units, full hookups.

**Canyon Campground:** Mile 118 Parks Highway, Healy, hookups, 50 units.

**Summer Shades Campground:** 68 Mile Park Highway, Nenana, fully equipped, hookups, showers, laundry, water, groceries, 15 units.

**Nenana Public Campgrounds:** 53 Mile Parks Highway, free, no limit.

**MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK**  
Riley Creek: 102 spaces, tents,

## MUSHING . . .

(Continued from page 39)

mushers running along behind a team of dogs pulling a sled on wheels in the summer.

If you miss the musher on the road, stop by Alaskaland at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. From June 20-Sept. 4, an area dog musher will be waiting to escort visitors to Tivi Kennels for an hour-long, live dog-sled demonstration and video presentation. For more information about the demonstration, call 452-5809.

Visitors desiring more information on long-distance sled dog races are encouraged to view the films and displays at the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race Headquarters, on the second floor of 552½ Second Avenue—or give the Quest volunteers a call at 452-7954.

Short-distance mushers battle in numerous races throughout the year, the most famous of which is the 40-year-old Open North American Championship

However, most fish are quite red and not desirable for eating.

**Average Size:** Kings will run up to 30 pounds, silvers and chums to 12.

**Trophy Size:** While large kings can be caught in the Yukon and Gulkana rivers, most Interior salmon do not reach trophy size. Anglers stand a better chance of catching a trophy salmon in the coastal waters of Southcentral Alaska. Interior kings over 50 pounds qualify for a trophy certificate, while chum salmon must weigh 15 pounds, and silver salmon 20 pounds.

**Lures, tackle:** Attractor baits, Spin-N-Glos, salmon eggs, large, fluorescent flies, size 3 to 5 spinners and large spoons are all effective on Interior salmon.

campers, trailers, restrooms, water, \$6 fee.

**Morino:** 10 spaces, tents, restrooms, no water.

**Savage River:** 24 spaces, tents, campers, trailers, restrooms, water, \$6 fee.

**Sanctuary River:** 7 spaces, tents, campers, trailers, restrooms, water.

**Teklanika River:** 35 spaces, tents, campers, trailers, restrooms, water.

**Igloo Creek:** 7 spaces, tents only, restrooms, water.

**Wonder Lake:** 23 spaces, tents only, restrooms, water, \$6 fee.

## ELLIOTT HIGHWAY

**Tolovana River:** BLM 57 Mile Elliott Highway, 5 spaces, restrooms, water.

**Manley Hot Springs Park:** 152 Mile Elliot Highway, open all year, 12 spaces.

**Lower Chatanika River State Recreation Area:** 9 Mile Elliot Highway, water, campfires, 12 spaces.

## TAYLOR HIGHWAY

**Eagle:** BLM Eagle City, Mile 162 Taylor Highway, 10 spaces, restrooms, water.

## CIRCLE HOT SPRINGS ROAD

**Ketchum Creek:** BLM 6 Mile Circle Hot Springs Rd., 7 spaces, restrooms, water.

## FISHING . . .

(Continued from page 40)

can be reached within an hour's drive from Fairbanks. The river offers good grayling fishing all summer, with chum, silver and king salmon available from July through September. The river also has an excellent population of whitefish, along with northern pike, burbot and sheefish.

For those who want the benefit of a guide for a day, several guides in Fairbanks offer day fishing trips. Reed Morisky of Arctic Grayling Outfitters offers a nine-hour stream fishing trip for Arctic grayling and salmon for \$90 to \$125 per person, with all gear provided, including hip boots, fishing gear and lunch. One special trip he offers during mid-summer is a Midnight Sun Trip that starts at 4 p.m. and lasts until midnight. Price is \$100 per person.

No matter where you fish, you'll need a fishing license. A resident license costs \$10; visitor's 3-day license, \$10; or \$20 for a 14-day license. These can be picked up at most sporting goods and department stores.

One last tip. When it comes to fishing the Interior, you get what

you put into it. Take the time to hike an extra mile up the creek rather than fish by the roadside bridge. Chances are you'll have a better time and very possibly catch more fish. But don't expect the fishing at any of the roadside lakes or streams to be as good as what can be experienced on a fly-out trip.

For more details and additional information contact the following:

Fish and game regulations, seasons, bag limits and trophy fish affidavits:

(Statewide)  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Sportfish Division  
P.O. Box 3-2000  
Juneau, AK 99802

(Fairbanks area only)  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Sportfish Division  
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# Athletes can name their game

Simply stated, there's more sports activity in Fairbanks during the summer months than in any other city of its size in the nation.

Almost every sporting event imaginable takes place in the Golden Heart City at almost any time of day, as sunshine bathes the Interior for nearly 24 hours each day.

Tops on the list of spectator sports is Alaska League baseball, which features the top amateur baseball players in the country competing in a six-team league.

Also, there are sports such as auto racing, riverboat racing and a full gamut of recreational sports: soccer, slowpitch softball and youth baseball, for example.

For those who would like to get involved in local sports, golf, ice skating and bowling are just a few of their choices.

And then there are others: cycling, roller skating, running and swimming—and we're not even going to get into the numerous hiking and fishing opportunities within

a short distance of the city.

The best thing about it all is that you can participate in or see some kind of sporting activity at almost any hour of the day.

Here's a brief run-down of sports happenings in and around Fairbanks this summer.

**ALASKA LEAGUE BASEBALL**—The top college baseball players annually flock to Alaska to compete in this six-team summer baseball league that includes two teams from the Fairbanks area: the Alaska Goldpanners and the North Pole Nicks.

More than 100 players, including more than 80 Goldpanners, have gone on to play major league baseball. You can put together a pretty good major league all-star team from the players who have competed in the 49th state.

Among the most famous of those to play in Fairbanks are the likes of Tom Seaver (now with the Chicago White Sox), Dave Winfield of the New York Yankees, Graig Nettles of the San Diego Padres, Tim Lincecum of the Montreal Expos and Bob Boone of the California Angels.

The Goldpanners have won five National Baseball Congress national championships, with the last coming in 1980. Many of the players on that team—Kevin McReynolds (San Diego), Alvin Davis (Seattle), Ron Romanick, (California) and David Meier (Minnesota)—are making big splashes in the major leagues this season.

The Goldpanners, the league's oldest team dating back to 1960, and the Nicks, who joined the league in 1980, play all of their home games at Growden Memorial Park on lower Second Avenue in Fairbanks. The Peninsula Oilers of Kenai, Mat-Su Miners of Palmer, Anchor-



The Alaska Goldpanners, who have won five national championships, play their home games at Growden Memorial Park on lower Second Avenue in Fairbanks. Admission prices to Goldpanner and North Pole Nicks games are \$3; \$2 for students; and \$1 for children age 6-12.

(News-Miner file photo)

age Glacier Pilots and Anchorage Bucs are the league's four other teams.

The Panners open their home season on June 10 against Mat-Su. The Nicks' first home game is slated for June 17 against Peninsula. Admission prices to Goldpanner and Nick games are \$3; \$2 for students; and \$1 for children age 6-12.

One of the highlights of every summer season is the annual Midnight Sun game, which starts at 11 p.m. and is played entirely without

the benefit of artificial lights. This year's classic will be on June 21 when the Panners take on a team from Moraga, Calif. All tickets are \$3.

Another highlight of the summer season is the annual appearance of The Chicken. The infamous bird, who is often seen at major sporting events throughout the nation, will make his appearance on July 10 when the Panners host the dreaded Anchorage Glacier Pilots. A crowd of almost 3,000 fans turned out to watch The Chicken go through his antics last summer.

Regular season play concludes in early August and is followed by the Top of the World Series and the NBC State Tournament. All six teams will participate in the state tournament Aug. 7-10 at Growden Park.

The Southern Division cham-

pion—either Peninsula, Mat-Su or the Anchorage Bucs—will host the Northern Division champ—either the Panners, Nicks or Glacier Pilots—in the Top of the World Series Aug. 3-5.

The Top of the World Series and State Tournament champion represent Alaska in the NBC National Tournament at Wichita, Kan.

**STOCK CAR RACING**—For those who like to put their foot to the floor there's plenty of stock car racing action every weekend at the Robert Mitchell Memorial Raceway.

The Greater Fairbanks Racing Association holds competition in several stock car classes every Saturday night on the quarter-mile dirt track located behind Metro Field on the corner of Lathrop Street and Van Horn Road.

(See SPORTS, page V-43)

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**ALASKA**



# SPORTS . . .

(Continued from page 42)  
Action gets under way at 7 p.m. and admission prices are \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for students and \$10 for families. In August the weekly racing programs will switch to Sunday and start at 2 p.m.

On special occasions, usually holidays, the state's top sprint car drivers will converge on the raceway for some high-powered, open-wheel racing.

The season opens on Memorial Day weekend and runs through Labor Day weekend.

**RIVERBOAT RACING**—This is a sport that has a truly Alaskan flavor. Nowhere else in the world do crews climb aboard these sleek 22-foot racing machines powered by 60-horsepower outboard motors that propel the boats through the rough river waters of the Interior river system at about 60 miles per hour.

The highlight of the summer racing season is the Yukon 800 Marathon from Fairbanks to Galeana and back along the Chena, Tanana and Yukon rivers. This year's race will start at noon on June 22. The winner is due to arrive back at the campground on June 24 sometime between noon and 2 p.m.

The season started on May 18 with the Chena Pump Shakedown. Other races this summer include the Business Race from Chena Pump to Nenana and back on May 27; the Nenana Lap Race on June 1; the Yukon 800 Shakedown on June 2; the Manley to Nenana and back race on July 5, the Miners 140 on

July 6; the Lou Kinda Memorial Winner's Picnic Race at the Chena Pump Campground July 13; the Golden Days Mayor's Cup Races on July 20; the Lord Memorial Race from Fairbanks to Nenana and back on Aug. 3; the Monderosa Race in Nenana on Aug. 17; and the season closes with a race in Tanana on Sept. 1.

**ROUGHHOUSE BOXING**—Every summer the meanest and toughest Alaskans turn out for two bruising days of Roughhouse Boxing promoted by Crosby Productions at Growden Memorial Park.

This year's event will be held on July 19 and 20 with a full slate of heavyweight, middleweight and

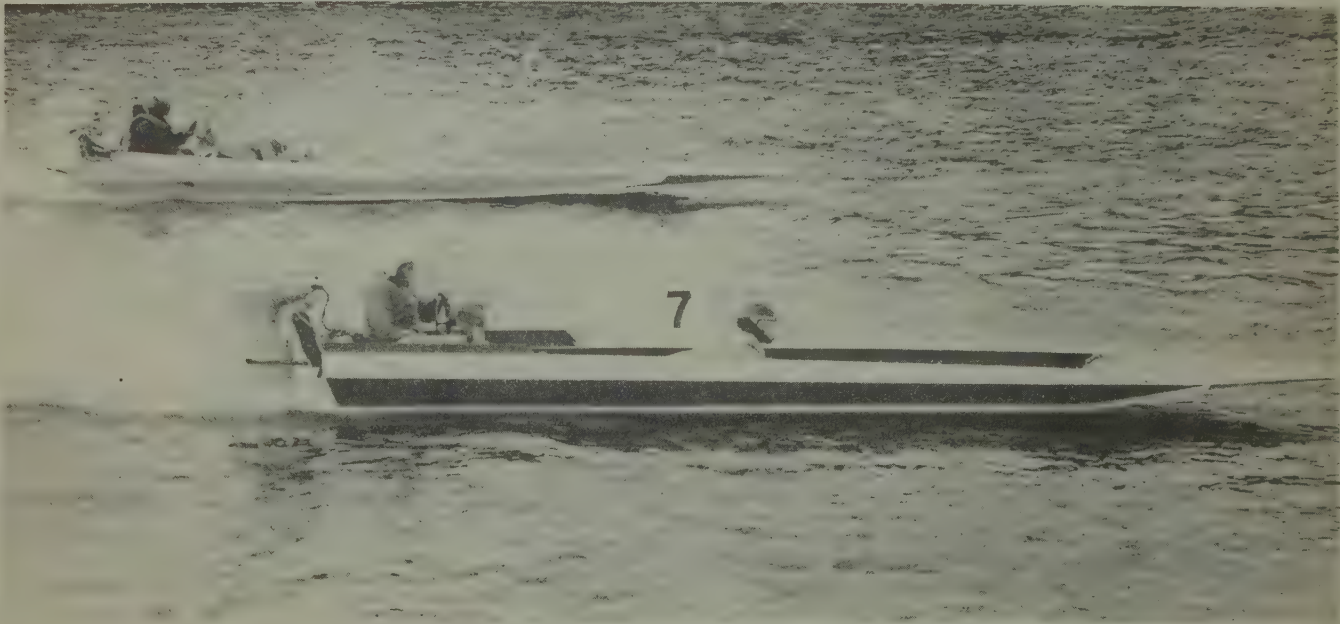
lightweight fights each night starting at 7:30 p.m.

The fights are one of the biggest spectator events of the summer, as they annually attract more than 2,000 fans. Ticket prices range from \$10-\$25. The winners of each weight division earn a \$1,000 paycheck nightly.

**CYCLING**—Some of Alaska's top

cyclists live in the Fairbanks area, which offers a wide variety of courses to race on. The Fairbanks Cycle Club hosts local races every Thursday night and on most weekends.

Due to the frequent weather changes that cause last-minute schedule changes, you should (See *SPORTS*, page V-44)



Racing boats command Interior rivers, maneuvering at speeds of about 60 miles per hour. Numerous races are held through the summer.

(News-Miner file photo)

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Over 222,000 copies of the guide are circulated each year through five editions which are distributed at approximately two week intervals beginning with the last week of May. The guide is distributed to service and lodging points and visitor's centers as follows: along the Alaska Highway as far south as Dawson Creek; via the Alaska Ferry System; along Interior Alaska highways and within interior cities and communities; to the major motels and hotels in Anchorage and at the Anchorage International Airport.

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Refer to Map page 26



## SPORTS . . .

(Continued from page 43)

check the Sports Slate in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner for exact time and location of cycling events.

**GENERAL SPECTATOR SPORTS**—Fairbanksans love to get outside and play, and just about everyone in town participates in some kind of sporting event during the long summer days. Local youth baseball, slowpitch softball and soccer teams are among the best in Alaska.

Much of the softball-baseball activity takes place in the Growden Park area where there are several outstanding fields for softball, Little League, Senior Little League, Pony League and American Legion baseball.

There also is a three-field softball complex at 23rd and East Cowles streets and another softball complex under construction at the Hez Ray Recreation Center on Cowles Street near Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Other fields are at Griffin Park, near the Alacom building, Sunset Strip, and at Hunter and Lathrop schools.

There are nightly games at almost every softball field, starting at 6:30 p.m., and softball tournaments abound almost every weekend.

Soccer is the largest participatory sport in Fairbanks, involving more than 1,000 youngsters from age 6 to 19. Adults have their own league. The main areas of activity are the Bentley Pipeyard Fields on the Old Steese Highway and at the Hez Ray Recreation Center. Games are usually played on Monday through Thursday nights and the adult league plays Sunday afternoons.

**RUNNING RACES**—Local running clubs in Fairbanks and on Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base sponsor races almost every weekend and Thursday night throughout the summer. Saturday races start at 9 or 10 a.m. and Thursday races usually begin at 7 p.m.

Among the more notable races during the next several months are: the 13.1-mile "Two-Way Torture Test" around Chena Ridge from the Pump House Restaurant, May 25; the fourth annual Chena River Run, Fairbanks' largest 10-kilometer race starting downtown on June 1; the 13.1-mile Great Land half-marathon at Fort Wainwright on June 8; the Chena Hot Springs 10-K and 13.1-mile races on June 15 at Chena Hot Springs Resort; the Dairy Queen-K101 Midnight Sun Classic 10-K race on June 22 at 10 p.m.; Hugh Heacock Memorial Races at Birch Hill on June 27; the Great Land Marathon on Fort Wainwright on July 4; the sixth annual women's 10-K run from the MUS parking lot downtown on July 13; the 16.3-mile Gold Discovery Race from the Felix Pedro Monument on the Steese Highway to visitor's center downtown on July 28; the Beaver Sports Triathlon on Aug. 3; the third annual Tanana Valley Fair Fun Run on Aug. 15; the 10th Annual Manchu Trail Run, 15 miles on Eielson Air Force Base on Aug. 17; and the 24th annual Equinox Marathon on Sept. 21.

**SHOOTING**—A full slate of shooting events ranging from trap shoots and blackpowder to high-power metallic silhouette matches are scheduled in the Fairbanks area throughout the summer. Visitors are welcome to take part either as participants or spectators.

**BOWLING**—Arctic Bowl, at 940 Cowles St. is open throughout the summer from 9 a.m.-10:30 p.m. on weekdays and from 2-10 p.m. on weekends. League play is scheduled during the days on Tuesday and Wednesday and Monday through Thursday evenings. There still should be room available at the 24-lane facility for open recreation bowling. Call 456-7719 to make sure

that lanes are open.

**GOLF**—There will be two golf courses open to the public this summer and each is open seven days a week with rental equipment available and green fees that are good for the entire day. Play at either course and you will be awarded a certificate that says you've played on the farthest north golf course in the world.

Green fees at the Fairbanks Golf and Country Club, at the corner of Yankovich and Ballaine roads are between \$6-\$7. The nine-hole course is a par 35 with sand greens measuring about 3,000 yards. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Chena Bend Golf Course on Fort Wainwright Army post is a nine-hole, par 36 measuring 6,559 yards. It is the only regulation size course in the area and it has a double set of tees to provide variation on the back nine. Green fees are \$11 for civilians and the hours are from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekends. There also is a full-line pro shop at the Chena Bend Clubhouse.

**SWIMMING**—There will be four swimming pools in the Fairbanks open for use. The hours for public use vary at each location so swimmers should contact the respective pools for exact times.

- University of Alaska-Fairbanks, 474-7205.
- Hamme Pool, 901 Airport Way, 456-2969.
- Mary Siah Pool, 1025 14th Ave., 456-6119.
- Wescott Pool, North Pole, 488-9401.

The Mary Siah Pool will be the only pool open all summer, as the other three will close down in mid-August for maintenance.

**ROLLER SKATING**—Roller skating is available at the Northern Lights Roller Rink at .9-mile De-



Fairbanksans run off the long winter on trails and streets criss crossing the area. Races are scheduled throughout the summer, with the "daddy" of the competition, the Equinox Marathon, concluding the season on Sept. 21.

(News-Miner file photo)

nnis Road off Badger Road near North Pole.

For more information on admission, skate rental and session starting times call 488-9444.

**ICE SKATING**—For those who are into ice skating there are two indoor rinks in Fairbanks—the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Patty

Center ice arena and the Big Dipper, which is part of the Hez Ray Recreation Complex on Cowles Street near Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

For exact times and any possible fees that might be charged call 474-6888 to check out the UAF rink and 456-4218 for the Big Dipper.

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The 1985 golf season is upon us and during this season, Fort Wainwright's Chena Bend Golf Course will be open to the public on a daily basis. This course is a regulation 9 hole course with grass greens, the farthest north grass green in the world. There is a full line pro shop available. Daily play starts at 8 a.m. The course is located on Fort Wainwright just three minutes from downtown Fairbanks.

Here is the Alaska League baseball schedule for games at Growden Memorial Park. Most games start at 7:35 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

June 9—Panners vs. Mat-Su  
June 10—Panners vs. Mat-Su  
June 11—Panners vs. Mat-Su  
June 12—Panners vs. Mat-Su  
June 14—Panners vs. Moraga, Ca.  
June 15—Panners vs. Moraga, Ca.

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June 16—Panners vs. Peninsula  
June 17—Panners vs. Moraga, Ca.  
June 18—Nicks vs. Peninsula  
June 18—Nicks vs. Moraga, Ca.  
June 18—Panners vs. Peninsula  
June 19—Nicks vs. Moraga, Ca.  
June 19—Panners vs. Peninsula  
June 20—Nicks vs. Peninsula (2)  
June 21—Peninsula  
June 21—Panners vs. Moraga, Ca.  
June 22—Panners vs. Moraga, Ca.  
June 23—Panners vs. Nicks  
June 24—Nicks vs. Panners  
June 25—Nicks vs. Mat-Su  
June 26—Nicks vs. Mat-Su  
June 27—Nicks vs. Mat-Su  
June 27—Nicks vs. Athletes in Action  
June 28—Panners vs. Mat-Su  
June 29—Panners vs. Mat-Su  
June 29—Panners vs. Athletes in Action  
June 30—Panners vs. Mat-Su (2)

July 1—Panners vs. Nicks  
July 2—Nicks vs. Panners  
July 3—Panners vs. Nicks  
July 4—Nicks vs. Panners  
July 5—Nicks vs. Anchorage Pilots  
July 6—Nicks vs. Anchorage Pilots  
July 7—Nicks vs. Anchorage Pilots (2)  
July 8—Nicks vs. Anchorage Pilots  
July 9—Nicks vs. Anchorage Pilots  
July 10—Panners vs. Anchorage Glacier Pilots\*\*  
July 11—Panners vs. Anchorage Glacier Pilots  
July 12—Panners vs. Anchorage Glacier Pilots  
July 13—Panners vs. Anchorage Glacier Pilots  
July 14—Panners vs. Anchorage Glacier Pilots (2)  
July 15—Panners vs. Anchorage Glacier Pilots  
July 16—Panners vs. Nicks  
July 17—Nicks vs. Panners  
July 18—Panners vs. Nicks  
July 19—Roughhouse Boxing

July 20—Roughhouse Boxing  
July 21—Roughhouse Boxing (rain date)  
July 24—Nicks vs. Anchorage Bucs  
July 25—Nicks vs. Anchorage Bucs  
July 26—Panners vs. Anchorage Bucs  
July 27—Nicks vs. Anchorage Bucs  
July 28—Panners vs. Anchorage Bucs (2)  
July 29—Panners vs. Anchorage Bucs  
July 30—Nicks vs. Panners  
July 31—Panners vs. Nicks  
Aug. 1—Nicks vs. Panners  
Aug. 7-10—All six teams will participate in the National Baseball Congress State Tournament with the winner of the double-elimination affair earning a berth to the NBC National Tournament in Wichita, Kan.  
\*\*—Denotes Midnight Sun Game that starts at 11 p.m. and is played without the benefit of artificial lights.  
\*\*\*—Denotes Chicken Night, game starts at 7:45 p.m.

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# UAF has it all—farm, musk ox, rockets . . .

By SUSAN FISHER  
Staff Writer

FAIRBANKS—It boasts two of its own mines—gold and antimony—an experimental farm, 20 musk oxen, reindeer and caribou, its own rocket range, inter-

nationally known research institutes, a symphony orchestra and a drama group.

Those are just some of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks' special features. The campus is easily reached from downtown

Fairbanks by bus service, taxicab or rented car. But some of these features can't be seen by the public or require special arrangements and transportation.

Visitors are encouraged to use a viewing stand at the university's large animal research area, where musk ox, reindeer and caribou can be seen. That area is located along Yankovich Road, about one mile after turning off Ballaine Road.

Ballaine Lake is a good stop, too, for occasional glimpses of waterfowl.

The experimental farm near campus has a research garden visitors are encouraged to see. That's along the Old Nenana Highway about a mile from campus. The farm itself and its planted fields are easily viewed along Geist Road.

Anyone visiting the University of Alaska Museum will eventually end up on West Ridge—an

area a short distance from main campus. West Ridge is home of many of the research institutes.

UAF has an international reputation for its research in high latitude, northern, Arctic and Alaska subjects, particularly in physical and natural sciences such as wildlife, geology, engineering and auroral (northern lights) work.

Near the tallest building on West Ridge, home of the Geoph- (See UNIVERSITY, page 46)

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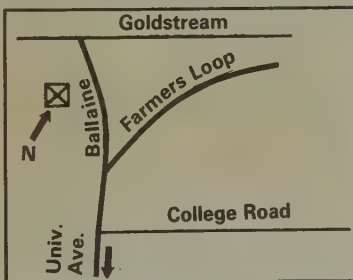
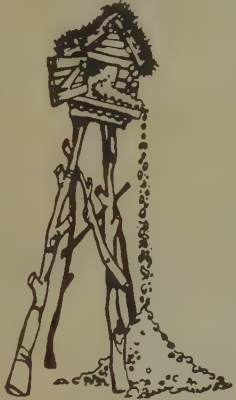
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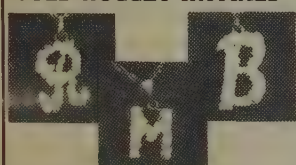
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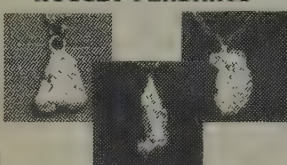
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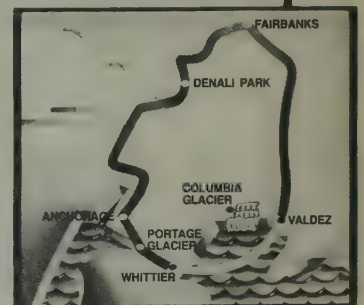
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The University of Alaska-Fairbanks boasts an experimental farm, musk oxen, reindeer and even a rocket range.

(News-Miner file photo)

## UAF museum holds manifold treasures

FAIRBANKS—There's Blue Babe, a 36,000-year-old bison, and an 8'9" brown bear standing on his hind legs, the colorful costumes and artifacts of Alaska's regional Native peoples and a new exhibit featuring Alaska's fair-weather friends—migratory birds.

Gold is always an attraction, and so are the many wildlife exhibits.

It's all at the University of Alaska Museum on the Fairbanks campus, a pleasurable way to learn much about Alaska, its people, history, cultures, history and natural resources.

Museum summer hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. seven days a week.

The exhibits are self-guiding, and visitors are encouraged to browse at their own pace.

Among the more recent additions are Blue Babe, the prehistoric bison, and the Birds of the Wetlands exhibit.

The pleistocene steppe bison was uncovered at a placer mine near Fairbanks. It's dated at 36,000 years, says Terry Dickey, museum coordinator of education and public service. Claw marks can be seen on the bison, which was killed by a lion.

Migratory birds are featured in a recent addition, along with information on the two popular summer nesting grounds for these annual Alaska visitors, the Yukon-

Kuskokwim Delta and the Copper River Delta.

A popular exhibit is the Gold Rush era, along with historic photos, artifacts and, of course, the precious metals.

Through regional exhibit areas, museum visitors become familiar with the diversity that is Alaska and its people, languages and cultures.

Special exhibits this year include a May 25-July 7 "Body Works and Wearable Sculpture," featuring contemporary sculpture with roots in jewelry and clothing, and a July 13-Sept. 15 exhibit, "Interwoven Expressions: Alaska Native Basketry," cosponsored by the Institute of Alaska Native Arts, featuring the intricate art of handwoven baskets.

On July 6, Henry Yu will lecture on the "Appreciation of Chinese Painting," 8 p.m. at the museum.

Information is updated on a daily after-hours recording, 474-7505.

Parking is available in a lot near the museum. Visitors may also take the borough transit bus (MACS) from downtown to campus, and hop on a free shuttle bus by Wood Center to the museum. The shuttle runs every 15 minutes. The route is a short walk past a scenic panorama of the Tanana Valley and mountain range.

## UNIVERSITY . . .

(Continued from page 45)  
ysical Institute, are miles of winter cross-country ski trails. Summer visitors are invited to jog or walk those trails, which wind by small lakes and through forested and open areas.

As American universities go, the University of Alaska is an infant, but in Fairbanks the university has its roots back to Gold Rush and pioneering days.

Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines opened in Fairbanks in 1922, later to become today's University of Alaska. Today the statewide system has four-year campuses in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau, plus 11 community colleges and numerous rural education centers and a statewide Cooperative Extension Service.

Today the Fairbanks campus

remains the lead as the land-grant institution. The campus here has an enrollment of about 4,200 students, and nearly 75-80 percent of them are Alaskans, with 1-2 percent foreign students.

Questions about the Fairbanks campus may be directed to the information kiosk or the UAF public affairs office, 474-7581.

## University offers guided tours

FAIRBANKS—Take a free, guided stroll around the University of Alaska-Fairbanks campus with plenty of time for lunch and an afternoon visit to the university museum.

This summer, tours are offered weekdays, July 8-Aug. 30, leaving the UA Museum at 10 a.m. The tours take about 1½-2 hours, depending on weather. Touring inside the museum is not included.

The university campus is located near University Avenue and College Road. Limited parking is available near the administration building, with more ample areas in the lot immediately off the University Avenue entrance, near Patty Gymnasium and some space near the museum. Do not park in

areas requiring university decals.

Free shuttlebuses can carry visitors to and from the lower campus and West Ridge (museum) areas.

On the tour, visitors begin with a stroll around the West Ridge research institutes area and have an opportunity to see the greenhouse and other features. From there, it's a short walk to a scenic view area near a residence hall complex, then on to the lower campus area. The walk includes going inside some major buildings, such as the Fine Arts Complex. A student guide leads the way.

The tour ends in the center of campus, near the bookstore, student center and library.

After July 8, occasional special

afternoon programs will be offered. Visitors are encouraged to call 474-6397 for the recorded message. In the past those special programs have included visits to the university's musk ox farm, tours of the experimental farm near campus, gold mining lectures and presentations by the Geophysical Institute, the largest of UAF's research institutes.

During June, visitors are encouraged to obtain free campus maps and tour on their own. Those maps are available downtown at the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau, or on campus at the Information Kiosk in Constitution Park. The kiosk is a small, freestanding, brightly colored booth with a large question mark, and is located near the campus library. Kiosk workers can assist with questions.

For information prior to July 8, call the UAF Public Affairs Office, 474-7581. From July 8-Aug. 30, call the recorded message at 474-6397.

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# Nenana can tell you a lot about Alaska

By JULIE HART  
Correspondent

NENANA—Fishwheels, dog teams, the trademark tripod and the mighty Tanana River lure thousands of visitors to this river village each year.

Summer visitors to Nenana are treated to Alaska's most accessible fishwheels. A fishwheel is a large wheel made from young trees. The river current turns the fishwheel and salmon that swim into it are scooped up and trapped in a holding basket. Fishwheels in use in the Tanana River are easily viewed from Nenana's dock, the highway bridge or the railroad bridge. Train your binoculars on a slowly turning wheel and you might see a large salmon slap its way into the net.

In the fall, hundreds of hunters fly or boat out of Nenana in search of moose, ducks and geese. The airport here is paved and has a float pond. The boat landing offers a route to the Yukon River system. In the summer, fishermen leave from Nenana to explore the offerings of

the Tanana's tributaries: generally grayling, whitefish and pike.

Dog mushing is more than a sport to many Nenana residents; it's a way of life. Because of the long winter and the terrain, dog mushers continue to move here. Admittedly, there's not a lot of action in the summer, but a drive around town might give you a look at a dog team. And, if you're interested, it's not hard to find someone to talk with about dog mushing.

Springtime in Nenana can be the most profitable season of the year—if you win the Nenana Ice Classic. This spring the payoff in Alaska's largest guessing game was \$187,000. To win you need to predict, in advance, the exact minute the ice will break up on the Tanana River. This year nine lucky guessers split the pot with a time of 3:36 p.m. Alaska Daylight Time on May 11.

The contest started in 1917 when engineers for the Alaska Railroad wondered when the ice would go

(See NENANA, page 48)



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The Arctic beckons the traveler who wants to see Alaska's most savage landscape and most exotic culture. Gray Line offers fly/tours to Barrow and Prudhoe Bay from Fairbanks. Barrow, the largest Eskimo settlement in Alaska, lies within 10 miles of the northernmost point in the U.S. The 12-hour Gray Line fly/tour to Barrow departs June 1 through August 1 as does the 12-hour Prudhoe Bay fly/tour. Prudhoe is the site of one of this century's great oil strikes and the starting point of the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline.

## FORT YUKON

Ft. Yukon is the oldest community in Interior Alaska. Founded in 1845 by the Hudson Bay Company, it became a major Yukon River stop for fur traders and gold prospectors. Today it is the largest Athabaskan Indian Village in Alaska. Gray Line's Ft. Yukon fly/tour departs Fairbanks twice daily, June through August.

## COLUMBIA GLACIER

The Columbia Glacier, about 100 miles west of Anchorage, is the second largest tidewater glacier in Alaska. It is in what glaciologists call "catastrophic retreat" and "calves" continuously, sending huge chunks of ice crashing into the water 30-stories below. On the two-day, one-night Gray Line Columbia Glacier Cruise/Tour, the **Glacier Queen II** traverses Prince William Sound and cruises past the face of the glacier. A light repast and drinks chilled by 10,000 year-old glacier ice are served en route. Overnight in Valdez. On day two, return to Anchorage overland via the Keystone Canyon and the Matanuska Valley. If time is limited, Gray Line offers a one-day fly/cruise excursion which includes a morning flight to Valdez and a cruise aboard the **Glacier Queen II**, arriving back in Anchorage approximately 10 hours later.

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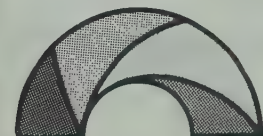
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## NENANA . . .

(Continued from page 47)

and they'd be able to get back to work. The Nenana Ice Classic has grown since and when the black-and-white tripod that's placed in the river ice goes out is still anybody's guess. The earliest recorded breakup date was April 20.

Nenana is basically an Interior Alaska village. The population of about 600 is approximately half Native and half white. For visitors,

Nenana is inviting because it is easily accessible by car or train. It's about halfway between Fairbanks and Mount McKinley Park. If McKinley is out, a superb view of it is available from the highway bridge.

And, if you feel like stretching your legs, hike up Tortella Hill. You'll go past the Indian cemetery and the view from the top is worth the climb.

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(News-Miner file photo)



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# Information center set downtown

FAIRBANKS—Contractors are finishing work on a joint state and federal Alaska visitor information center in downtown Fairbanks, and organizers hope to open the doors the first week of June.

The center will provide a central point to obtain information on Alaska's public land from the various federal and state agencies that manage it, according to Bill Robertson, head of public affairs with the Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks.

One such center is already in operation in Tok, Robertson said. Besides Fairbanks, two other centers—one in Anchorage and one in Southeast Alaska—will also be built.

The 8,000 square-foot Fairbanks center, located in the Courthouse Square, will provide statewide information, with an emphasis on two exhibits covering Interior and Southcentral Alaska, Robertson said. Four other exhibits will feature the Far North, the Northwest, the Southwest and Southeast parts of the state, he said.

Agencies involved in the effort in (See CENTER, page 51)

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Travelers Inn ....	4:58	5:43	6:28	7:13	7:58			
Fairbanks Inn ....	5:05	5:50	6:35	7:20	8:05			
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Penny Adler, information technician with the Alaska Lands Information Center on Third Avenue, explains one of the many murals depicting contemporary lifestyles in Alaska. (Staff photo)

## CENTER . . .

(Continued from page 50)  
clude, on the federal side: the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Land Management. State agencies include the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Fish and Game and the Division of Tourism.

In addition, the Alaska Natural History Association will sell books. Exhibits will provide a "contemporary view of each region of the state," Robertson said.

Photos, videotapes, computer-controlled information screens and cultural and physical maps will be provided for each area. Books on Alaskana will be sold, and a 35-seat theater will feature multi-media presentations or short movies.

In addition, a computerized trip-planning guide will allow visitors to review the variety of recreational opportunities available not only in the Interior but also in other regions of the state.

Robertson said the centers were authorized by the Alaska National

Interest Lands Act. With the passage of that act, Alaska was covered with a patchwork pattern of different land classifications with different managing agencies.

A need exists for a central point where visitors and residents can find information on the natural history, recreational opportunities, regulations and land classification boundaries in Alaska.

"We think it will be a big draw," he said. The Fairbanks center will

be set up for a person to spend a few hours reviewing exhibits. It will also provide the kind of information that may spark enough interest to hold a visitor in the Interior or in Alaska for a few more days than planned, Robertson said.

The center is the first interagency effort of its kind in the nation, Robertson said.

About \$1.5 million will be spent on developing the Fairbanks and Anchorage centers.

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**"MAIDEN VOYAGE"**— Don Albrecht drives his horse and buggy down First Avenue as he began his new buggy ride service on May 15.

(Staff photo)

# Horse-and-buggy days back in town

By JOHN CREED  
Staff Writer

For years, Don Albrecht hauled logs out of Interior Alaska woods with his friend "Bay"—a large, loving, 17-year-old Clydesdale. But one day he decided that "economically, wood-cutting just wasn't there."

"I was Don's Firewood for seven years before I decided to give it up," the tall, bearded ex-military man said, as if everybody in North Pole—where he lives at 5 Mile Dyke Road—knew him as the local woodcutter.

Albrecht is now at work on the streets of downtown Fairbanks, using another Clydesdale to pull a carriage for visitors. One of his carriages is a restored coach made by the Chicago Carriage Co. in 1880.

The fledgling business is directly across the street from the Fairbanks Visitors and Convention Bureau downtown. For a half-hour ride, a party of four pays \$40; additional passengers (up to six total) cost \$10 each. Rides are available seven days a week.

"I wanted to show Fairbanks something unique with some class," said Albrecht, 42, who runs the family-owned and operated business called The Carriage Trade with wife Jill, 39, and sons Doug, 18, and Darren, 12.

"They're all heavily involved in the business," Albrecht said.

The Albrechts have collected horse-drawn vehicles for 3½ years and claim the largest active collection of horse-drawn vehicles—19—in Alaska.

After endless requests for rides whenever they went for a sleigh ride in winter or buggy ride in summer, the Albrechts decided to invest—more than \$70,000—in the family corporation and "go for it" in free enterprise.

Bay, his 17-year-old Clydesdale, died in mid-May, but Albrecht has two other horses—pure-bred Clydesdales from Montana—called Bonny and Buddy.

"Bonny is pregnant," said Albrecht, who said the "baby" will be called Billy. "So she (Bonny) won't be on the street until August. If she ever had to back up, it could kill the baby. We don't want to take the chance."

But Buddy is working, pulling a brand-new Vis-A-Vis coach, a replica of horse-and-buggy-days originals and built by the Amish people of Elkart, Ind.

"The seats on the Vis-A-Vis face each other so passengers can visit with each other while they ride along," Don said.

The Carriage Trade also hires out for parties, tours, proms, gatherings, parades, weddings, displays, open houses, "whatever people want," Albrecht said.

The Albrechts, who have lived in the area since 1971, don't expect to fly south when the last tourists of the season do. They'll just trade wheels for sleigh runners after the snow starts to fly—and continue business from the same spot.

"We'll operate all the time," he said, "except when the temperature drops below minus 20."

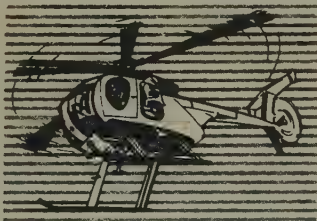
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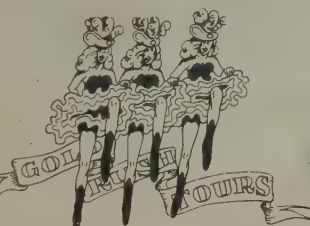
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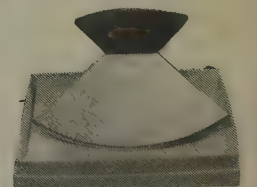
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## Following early gold mine trail

By SANDIE PARRISH  
and GAIL ACKELS

As you travel the Gold Dust Trail (Steese Highway), you can see many past and present mining operations. The oldest gold strike in the Interior of Alaska was at the top of our trail. In 1893, gold was discovered on Birch Creek, and Circle City was founded. Not only is this area steeped in history, it is currently mined extensively. The Circle Mining District is still the largest producer of gold in Alaska. Most of the working mines are not set up for visitors, so please obtain permission before entering any of them.

There are several places for individuals to pan for gold and we have mentioned just some of them in our guide. It is also permissible to pan for gold on the Steese Highway right of way. Enjoy!! Good luck with your gold hunt!!

The Steese Highway officially starts at the end of the Richardson Highway, near the Fort Wainwright gate in Fairbanks; however, this log starts several miles out of town.

6 Mile—Gilmore Trail exit—Gilmore Trail was once connected to Gilmore Creek and along its route were several mines and farms, including one of the few tungsten mines in Alaska. Tungsten, a valuable mineral, is used by the steel industry in different hardening processes and by the electrical industry for filaments and conductors.

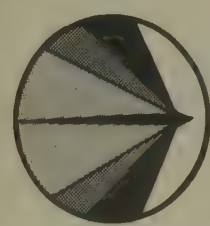
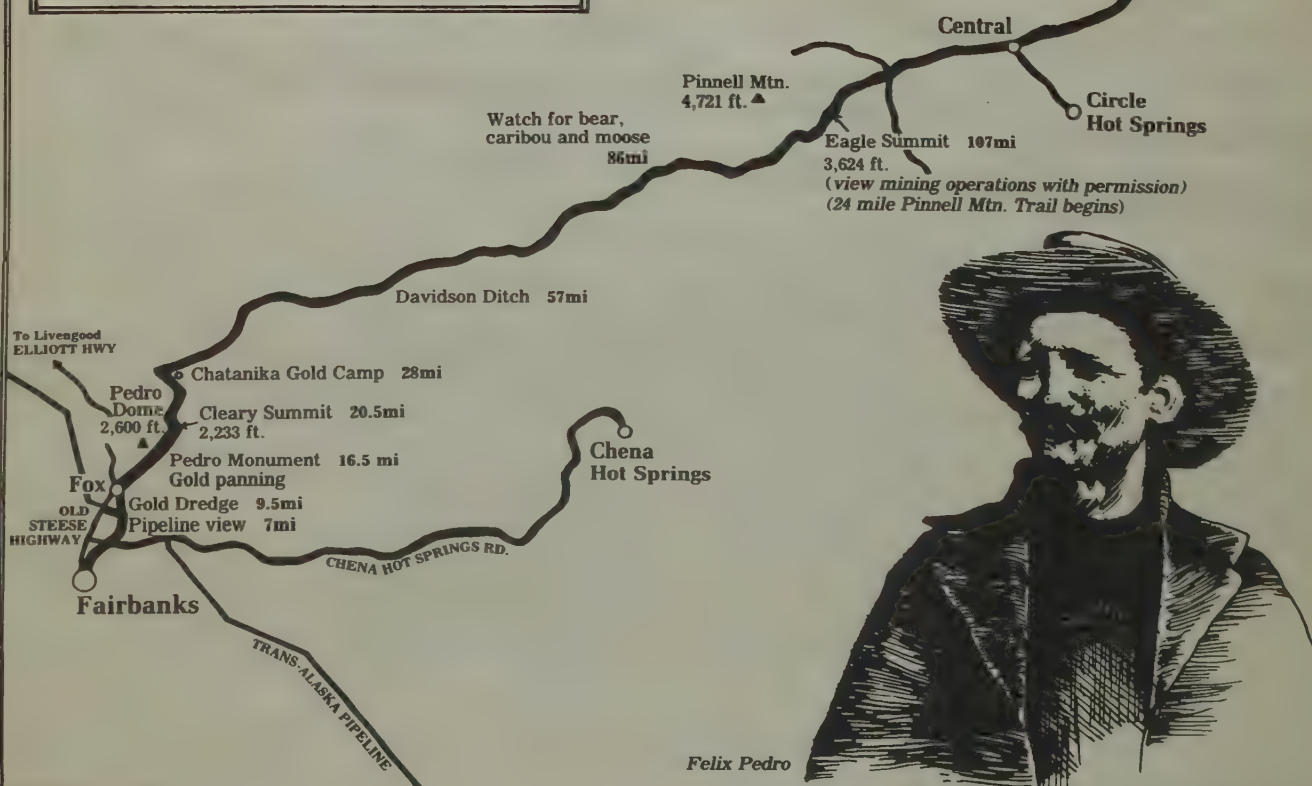
7 Mile—From the top of the hill you have an excellent view of the Alaska oil pipeline. In the next few miles you will see the pipeline traveling above and below ground, adjusting for changing soil conditions.

9.5 Mile—Goldstream Valley exit—The Goldstream Valley used to be on the route of the Chatanika Railroad spur, which was part of the Tanana Valley Railroad. This narrow gauge railroad ran from Chatanika to Fairbanks, Olmes and Happy, and helped haul people and ore to the valley. Parts of the old railroad bed can be found near Gilmore Trail Road and Goldstream Valley Road. Gold Dredge #8: Turn left on Goldstream Road, then left again on the Old Steese Highway.

(Continued on page 54)

## The Gold Dust Trail

A guide to the Steese Highway



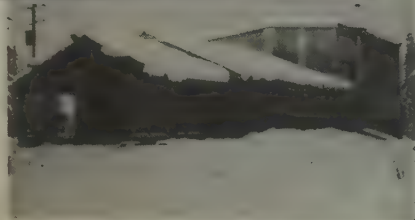
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cut into strips and fillets, and fishwheels in action. Your narrator will give the history of the area and the village as you view the Old Fort and Church, and the museum where you will find a wide array of fine Native artwork on sale. You will learn of the exciting history of the gold rush and fur trading activity on the great Yukon and Porcupine Rivers.

Fort Yukon is rich with the history of its nomadic people, the Gwich'in, the Hudson's Bay Company, the early Russians, and the missionaries. All their influences are present here, and their stories are woven throughout Fort Yukon. There is the Old Fort which now houses the Fort Yukon Native Council and is used for their cultural activities. This is where the Hudson's Bay Company established its trading post in 1847. Fort Yukon is the oldest Athabaskan community in Interior Alaska.

The missionaries brought their influence to the Gwich'in, the original Athabaskan people of the Yukon. The Gwich'in traded furs for guns and beads to the Hudson's Bay Company. Later they changed from their nomadic life to move to the village for the advantages of schooling for their children and medical care.

The first missionaries were Anglicans, and later Episcopalians. Here they built their churches and brought their language and customs. These have a lasting impact on the Native people, who now combine the best of their past heritage with the best of the new. A historical site, the first Episcopal Church in Alaska, is part of the village tour.



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# Gold trail leads along valley of Chatanika River

(Continued from page 53)

way; drive .3 mile and the entrance and Gold Dredge #8 will be on your right. This dredge was built in 1928 and is now on the list of National Historic Sites. It is privately owned and is open to the public. In addition to this tour, goldpanning lessons are also available.

These giant dredges (five stories high) floated in their own, self-created ponds and scooped up the gold-bearing gravel and sorted it, washed it and trapped most of the gold inside the dredge. The waste gravel was sent out on a conveyor belt at the rear of the dredge and deposited as the rolling tailing piles you see today in the area.

Intersection with old Steese Highway, Elliott Highway and the new Steese.

**Left at intersection—Old Steese Highway**—this community is known as Fox. It was once a large mining camp established in 1905. There are several travelers facilities available.

**Straight at intersection—Elliott Highway**—This will lead you to Olmes, Livengood and Manley Hot Springs. Olmes was a mining town established in 1907. All that is left of the town today is the original store to your right on the highway about 15 miles north of Fairbanks.

Livengood is about 70 miles north of Fairbanks. The last major gold discovery in Alaska came when gold was discovered on Livengood Creek on July 24, 1914, by prospectors Jay Livengood and N.R. Hudson. Shortly after Livengood and

Hudson's discovery a small cadre of miners flowed into the district. According to historical accounts, a small community was established on the north side of Livengood Creek about five miles from the mouth of the creek.

The town of Livengood was the mining center of the Tolovana Mining District. In 1915, the first year of systematic mining, much prospecting was done, but only 10 mines operated on a commercial basis. The summers of 1916-17 saw over 50 operations in existence and the growth of the community matched the growth in mining operations. As more gold was mined from the district, a transportation route was needed to transfer gold to banks and to bring in supplies.

During 1916 two systems were devised for this purpose: the Tolovana River and a general overland trail. Olmes was about 55 miles from Livengood and when in use, mostly in the winter, travelers had access to numerous roadhouses. The overland route was upgraded by the Army during World War II and finally converted into a modern gravel road in the 1950s.

By the end of 1919 Livengood was a shell of its former self. The reason, according to geologist R.M. Overbech, was due "to lack of water resulting from the exceptionally dry summer, the scarcity of labor (World War I) and to the high cost of supplies." Mining on a reduced scale has continued until the present day in the Livengood District. One of the largest gold placer



Eagle Summit usually has snow for early Steese Highway travelers

deposits in Alaska lies under and around the remains of the town of Livengood. However, an attempt to mine that site in the early 1980s led to disaster for the company—probably due to some of the factors cited as a reason for the slowdown in the first place.

**Right at the intersection—New Steese:**

**13.5 mile—Gilmore Creek Tracking Station—NOAA** (National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Association). Call 452-1155 for tour information.

**16.5 Mile—West side—The monu-**

ment to Felix Pedro. It was his rich gold strike that started the rush which established Fairbanks in July, 1902.

**16.5 Mile—East side—a nice turn out** where gold panning is allowed in the adjacent stream. Good Luck!

**20.5 Mile—Cleary Summit**, elev. 2,233 ft.—Now a popular skiing area for local residents. It was named for a gold miner, Frank Cleary. This summit overlooks the old townsite of Cleary, once a large and prosperous community. The town completely burned in 1907 and nearly all the residents moved to the city of Chatanika. Cleary Summit also provides an excellent view of the Tanana Valley to the south and the White Mountains to the north.

**22 Mile—The old turnoff** on the left once led to the mining community of Eldorado. This was a short-lived mining town, and the turnoff is the only reminder of the town.

**28 Mile—A sharp right up the hill** leads to the old F.E. (Fairbanks)

(Continued on page 55)

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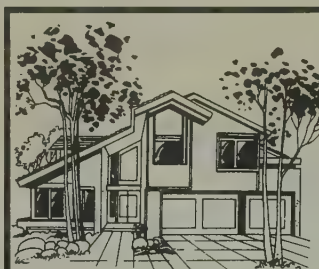
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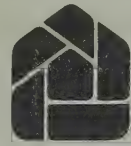
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# Mining still in progress in historic Circle area

(Continued from page 54)

Exploration Co.) gold camp at Chatanika. Built in 1925 and closed in 1957, over \$70 million in gold came through this camp. It is on the National Historical Register and is now privately owned and completely open to the public with many visitor facilities.

**28.5 Mile**—On the right is Chatanika Lodge—a modern facility with an old-fashioned welcome to all. On the hill above it was once the city of Chatanika. On the left across the road from the lodge is F.E. Dredge #3, one of the larger dredges still in existence. It isn't open to the public but is an excellent place to take pictures.

**30 Mile**—Right side—Poker Flats Rocket Range, operated by the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, for upper atmospheric research. Not open to the public. Call 474-7634 for tour information.

**36.5 mile**—Weltown—A new and unusual gift shop with mostly hand-made items.

**39 Mile**—Chatanika River Bridge and Campground—A lovely campground with 26 sites. Good fishing, some panning, lots of mosquitoes and fun.

**42 Mile**—Miner Ed's—A different mixture of old and new with supplies for the travelers.

**44 Mile**—Blacktop ends!—Good

gravel begins. No more frost heaves, dips and holes!

**45 Mile**—Long Creek Lodge—Some facilities for visitors with lots of hospitality and fishing.

**57 Mile**—Davidson Ditch pull-off—An excellent place to get a close-up view of the Davidson Ditch, built in 1925 and designed by J.B. Lippincott. This was a fascinating, 83-mile system of ditches and pipes (inverted syphons) that carried 56,000 gallons of water a minute. The water was used to float the giant dredges and to provide hydraulic pressure to "wash down" the frozen earth. After F.E. closed its operations the water was used to run a hydroelectric plant near Chatanika until the 1967 flood destroyed it and much of the pipe in the ditch. The August 1967 flood affected the drainages of the Chatanika, Chena, Tanana and most Interior rivers.

**60 Mile**—Cripple Creek Campground—A peaceful campground with 21 sites, run by the Bureau of Land Management. Watch for "our flying friends" and have repellent ready.

**66 Mile**—Miracle Mile—A popular meeting place for local miners and visitors.

**68 Mile**—Faith Creek—Near here was the start of the Davidson Ditch. This also was the site of one of the oldest roadhouses on the Circle Trail. This roadhouse burned, as



Circle Hot Springs Lodge has been a popular resting spot for decades

did almost all the roadhouses on the Circle trail between the years 1926-73. (One of the few left is at Central.)

**81 Mile**—Fresh water piped by the side of the road. Stop and enjoy the view and get a big drink of good, cold water.

**86 Mile**—Twelve-mile Summit, elev. 2,982 ft.—Marks a change from the Tanana River drainage system to the Yukon River drainage. There is a large pull-off so you can stop and enjoy the scenery.

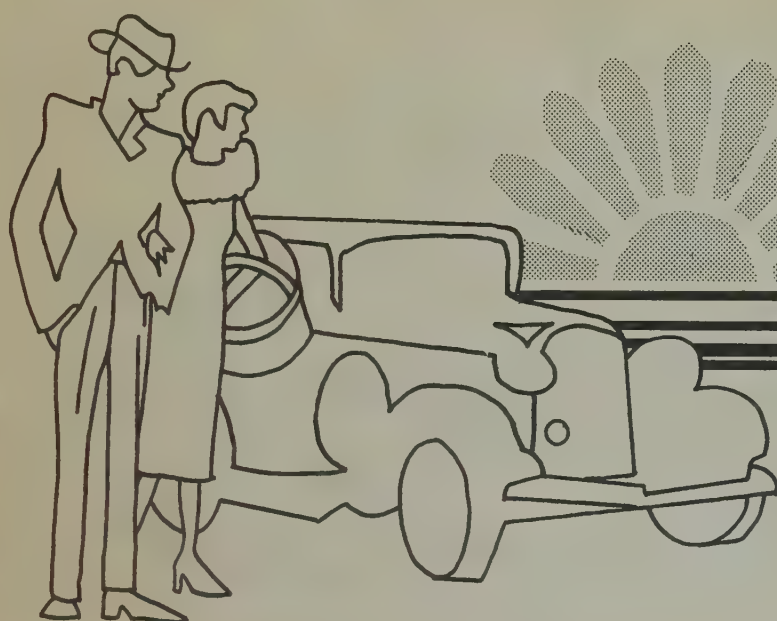
Across from the pull-off is the Pinell Mountain hiking trailhead, which is 24 miles long and rejoins the Steese at Eagle Summit. Complete details about the trail are available from the Fairbanks BLM office. Call 356-5600.

**89 Mile**—Reed Creek—The site of the former Twelvemile Roadhouse. (Unfortunately it also has been burned.)

**101 Mile**—Many traveler services are available here, including goldpanning. From here the road

again starts an upward climb. Many past and present goldmining operations can be viewed from the road. The present road across Eagle Summit is to the west of the 4,000-foot mountain, and the early Circle City-Fairbanks Trail crossed the mountain over the saddle to the east. You may still discern traces of the trail and the tripods which carried a pioneer telephone line from Circle City to Eagle Creek.

(Continued on page 56)



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# Mighty Yukon River lies at end of Steese highway

(Continued from page 55)

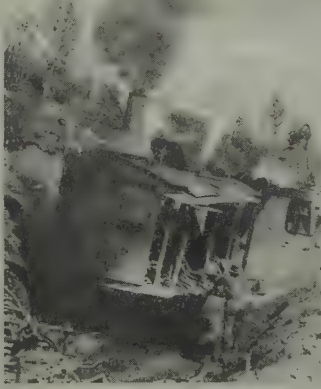
**105 Mile**—Visible to the right down at the base of Eagle Summit is the Old Eagle Creek Mining Camp, which is still in use today.

**107 Mile**—Eagle Summit, elev. 3,624 ft.—At this pull-off the Pinnell Mountain Trail rejoins the Steese Highway. There are several places to stop on the summit and, depending on the time of year, wildflowers and wild game can be seen. This is a good place to find both the Alaska state bird, the ptarmigan, and Alaska state flower, the forget-me-not. It is also a popular area to view the midnight sun during late June. (June 21 is the longest day of the year). Even though you are still more than 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle the altitude of the summit allows you to see the sun at midnight.

**108 Mile**—A short trail on the right leads to the highest point of the summit. As a note to all of those who see tire tracks on the trail, some people do drive up the trail. However, it is very steep and quite risky. It's really not a long walk and is much easier on the nerves.

**109 Mile**—Descent of the mountain begins here. There are several pull-offs to stop and enjoy the view. Many old and new mining operations are visible from the road.

**114 Mile**—Right side—A small road leads down to the mining settlement at Miller Creek. This was the site of the famous Miller House, which was one of the larger roadhouses on the Circle Trail and was the last one to burn in the early 1970s. This area currently has many mines operating and most of them are re-mining the tailings left by a dredge many years ago. From



**Steam shovel helped dig the Davidson Ditch**

here down to Mammoth Creek Bridge you can see the old trail left by the dredge.

**118 Mile**—Left side—pull-off with an excellent view of the Tanana-Yukon highlands you have just passed through and the Crazy Mountains in the distance.

**119 Mile**—Bedrock Creek Campground—A BLM campground with eight sites. Our "pesky friends" are still with us; however, there is usually a slight breeze to help keep them away.

**124.5 Mile**—Right Side—There is a small road which leads to the local landfill. This is not really a tourist spot; however, if you have been wanting to dump your litterbags and found the roadside barrels full, this is the place to do it!

**126 Mile**—The road narrows; please slow down since you are almost in the community of Central and the road has several curves. Watch out for small children and pets.

**127 Mile**—Central—A small community which grew up around the old Central Roadhouse, and an early mining supply and rest stop. This old roadhouse is still standing and you will find it on the right side of the road immediately after crossing Crooked Creek Bridge on the north side of Central. It is a two-story log building which has been placed on the National Historic Register. Because of safety reasons the roadhouse is not presently open to the public. It is pri-

vately owned and the owners do have plans to restore the building so it can be enjoyed by all.

Central also has a new regional history museum, located at 127.7 Mile on the left side of the road. It features an inside gallery and many displays, including photos of local alpine flowers, parts of the first gold dredge used in the Klondike and, later in the Circle District, the first printing press in the Interior. Many new displays are being added.

Central has full visitor facilities, including the first phone service you've had since leaving Cleary Summit.

**128 Mile**—Intersection with Circle Hot Springs Road on the right. The road to the springs is eight miles and you should enjoy the short trip.

**1 Mile Circle Hot Springs Road**—A turnoff on the right leads to the Central Cemetery where many early pioneers are buried. An interesting note: There are no women buried in the Central Cemetery.

**5.5 Mile Circle Hot Springs Road**—Ketchum Creek Campground—BLM campground with seven sites on both sides of the creek. A small footbridge connects the sides of the campground.

**1-8 Mile Circle Hot Springs Road**—There are many small side roads, with most of them leading to private homes. This area is one that the state of Alaska opened for private ownership several years ago. There is still mining activity on both Deadwood Creek and Ketchum Creek. However, little if any is visible from the road and there is limited access to the area. If you wish to view these areas check with the tour people at

the Circle Hot Springs Lodge.

**8 Mile Circle Hot Springs Road**—Circle Hot Springs Lodge—The first prospector (the area was known to the Kutchin Indians long before the miners arrived) to discover the springs was Frank Greats in 1893. Legend has it that he was moose hunting when he happened across the warm water stream and followed it to its source. The area was homesteaded by Casius Monohan shortly after 1900 and then was re-staked by Frank Leach in 1907. Frank Leach devoted his life to the development of the hot springs and utilized the 139°F. water for the heating of the buildings, swimming and bathing, and heating his greenhouses. The area has long been famous for the fantastic vegetables grown here. In 1924 Frank Leach constructed the first landing field in Alaska. He felt that aviation would be of great importance to the development of the territory. Noel Wien made the first landing at the field Aug. 10, 1924.

The resort now offers full facilities to travelers and their vehicles, (automobiles and airplanes). The hotel has undergone extensive restoration and is an enjoyable treat for all. For reservations or more information call 520-2205.

## (BACK ON THE STEESE HIGHWAY)

**147 Mile**—The Birch Creek Bridge—There is an interesting controversy over whether this is a creek or a river. It is definitely the stream where the first gold was found. When you compare the size of it with the rivers in the area, maybe you can understand why the early pioneers called it a creek. After all, the closest river is the Yukon!

**147-159 Mile**—Here the road goes through a range of hills which separates Birch Creek from the Yukon River. There are many curves and switchbacks, so drive carefully.

**147 Mile**—North side of bridge—Gravel turnout on right. This was called Ferry and was the site of a roadhouse. The old Alaska Road Commission building can still be seen a few feet away in the trees.

**159.5 Mile**—Indian Cemetery on the right side of the road.

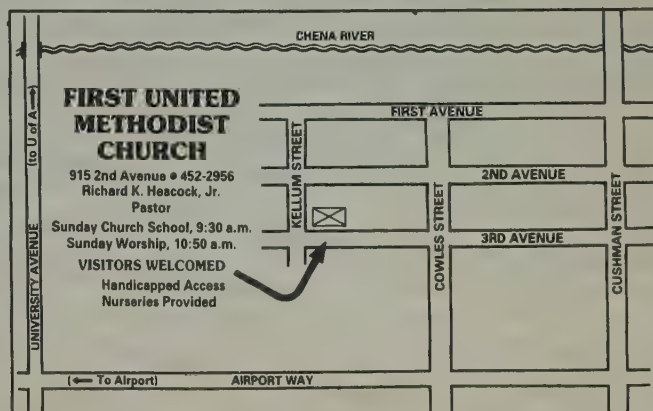
**162 Mile**—Circle City—Started by a gold strike on Birch Creek, the town grew rapidly when Jack McQuesten, "Father of the Yukon," established a trading post in the spring of 1887 to supply miners. The large and lively log cabin town was partially emptied when word arrived of the gold strike in the Klondike in 1896, but soon regained its importance as the supply center for the Circle Mining District. In its early days the town had hospitals, saloons, an opera house, an active mining district, a large library, warehouses, trading posts and the Interior's first post office and newspaper.

Nearly a century of erosion from the Yukon's waters and ice have destroyed the early city, but today's small active community offers many facilities to travelers.

We hope you have enjoyed your trip up the Gold Dust Trail. We want to thank the following for their donations of time and information: Circle Mining District, Livengood/Tolovana Mining District, Tanana/Yukon Historical Society, University of Alaska Archives Dept., Circle District Historical Society and many others.



**Circle City has tons of Yukon River ice behind it**



The U.S. Supreme Court outlawed sit-down strikes on Feb. 27, 1939.

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# Denali, 'The Great One'



## Mountain just one of park's wonders

By KATHI BERRY  
Staff Writer

One glimpse of Mt. McKinley in the sun is all it takes to understand why the tallest peak in North America was originally called "Denali" by the Athabascan Indians.

Denali, which means "The Great One," is as majestic as its name implies—but a word of warning: its infrequent appearances are as well known as its legendary grandeur.

On a clear day, one of the best places to view the 20,320-foot peak is from within Denali National Park and Preserve, located 120 miles south of Fairbanks off State Highway 3.

Originally established as a wildlife sanctuary, the name "Mt. McKinley National Park" was

changed in 1980 when the area was expanded to its present-day total of nearly six million acres.

The mountain and many of the animals living within the park can be seen from free shuttlebuses, which make roundtrips daily along 85 miles of the park road.

To obtain shuttlebus boarding passes, to register to stay in the park campgrounds and backcountry units and to receive information about the daily naturalist-led programs, stop at Riley Creek Information Center, located 3 miles past the park entrance. While there, don't forget to pick up the Alpenglöw, a free guide to park activities and information.

To bone up on the park before arriving, call the park's recorded

information line at 907-683-2686.

### CAMPGROUND REGISTRATION

Denali National Park and Preserve operates six campgrounds from May 25-Sept. 2 (Labor Day). No electrical hookups are available at any of the campgrounds, but most that accommodate recreational vehicles have running water.

Visitors may register for campgrounds from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. In midsummer, when most sites are filled by 11 a.m., registration for the next day is possible on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Campers may drive to their registered sites at Riley Creek (102 sites), Savage River (29 sites) and Teklanika (50 sites). Vehicles lon-

ger than 22 feet, higher than 12 feet and wider than 7½ feet are prohibited west of Teklanika. Registered campers meeting federal size limitations are permitted to drive to Sanctuary (seven sites), Igloo (seven sites) and Wonder Lake (20 sites). Igloo and Wonder Lake are for tent campers only.

Free backcountry permits are required for overnight hikers. Remember, there are no trails in Denali National Park and Preserve. For quadrangle maps and for hiking information about individual backcountry units, visit Riley Creek Information Center between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. daily.

**FREE SHUTTLEBUSES**  
Since private vehicles without a

campground permit are not allowed to drive on the park road beyond the Savage River Check Station (12 miles from the park entrance), free shuttlebuses provide the transportation through the park.

The buses, which originate at Riley Creek Information Center, operate from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. A bus schedule and a bus boarding pass (bus token) may be obtained from the information center starting at 5:45 a.m. daily.

Each visitor holding a token is assured a seat on a designated bus when it leaves from the information center. Tokens, which are required for boarding at Riley Creek,

(Continued on page 59)



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### HARDING LAKE AREA

#### St. Mary's of the Lake

Off 44 Mile Richardson Highway  
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### NORTH POLE AREA

#### St. Jude's Episcopal Church

1/2 Mile Laurance Road  
Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m., Eucharist & Sunday School  
Phone 488-3791 or 488-9329

#### King's Way Baptist Church (Independent)

9 Mile Badger Road  
North Pole, Alaska, Phone 452-1402

#### North Pole Grace Brethren Church

Sunday 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m., Wed. 7:30 p.m.  
1/4 Mile Newby Rd., Phone 488-1789

#### Community Baptist Church

Sunday School: 4:00 p.m./Church: 5:15 p.m.  
North Pole, Phone 488-6469

#### Moose Creek Baptist Church

3518 Hope St. (Turn on Hope St.) 24 Mile Old Rich.  
North Pole, AK 99705, Phone 488-2407

#### North Pole Assembly of God

Rev. P.L. Peretti — 5th Street  
Next to N.P. Public Park

### FAIRBANKS AREA

#### Church of Christ

1/4 Mile Chena Small Tracts Road  
P.O. Box 80788, Fairbanks, AK 99708  
Worship: Sun. 10:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.  
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For information Phone 479-6170

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#### Syndoulos Lutheran Church — W.E.L.S.

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#### University Baptist Church

(Southern Baptist Convention)  
1197 University Avenue, Fairbanks  
S.S.: 9:45, Worship: 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

#### Fairbanks Lutheran Church (A.L.C.)

1012 Cowles St. (Across from Borough Library)  
Pastor Bruce Engbreton, Phone 452-3425  
Services: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

#### St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

1029 First Avenue, Fairbanks  
Eucharist: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

#### Zion Lutheran Church (LC-MS)

2141 Airport Road, Near Alaskaland  
Worship: 8:00 & 10:30, S.S.: 9:15

#### Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

115 N. Cushman St., Phone 452-3533  
Sunday Masses: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 noon  
Weekday Masses: 7:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.  
Saturday Vigil Mass: 7:30 p.m.

#### St. Mark's University Catholic Parish

U of A Campus, Lower Commons Lounge  
Sun. Mass: 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m., 479-3994

#### First Presbyterian Church

547 7th Ave. (Corner of Cushman)  
Worship: 10 a.m., Inupiaq Service: 3 p.m.  
Children's Church & Nursery Available  
Phone 452-2406

#### Fairbanks Covenant Church

1405 10th Ave.  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m., Worship: 11 a.m.

#### Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

2501 Airport Way, Phone 456-7868  
(across from Alaskaland)  
Masses: 5:15 p.m. (Sat), 9:15 & 11:30 (Sun.)

#### Churches of Christ

645 11th Ave., Fairbanks, 456-4921  
Mile 22 Old Rich. Hwy., Eielson, 488-6664  
Delta Junction, 895-4151  
Classes: 10:00 a.m., Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Eve. Worship: 7 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m.

#### First Church of the Nazarene

10th and Noble, Phone 452-3333  
Sunday Services: 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

#### University Community Presbyterian Church

3510 College Road, Phone 479-6728  
Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

#### Chena Ridge Friends Meeting (Unprogrammed)

2682 Gold Hill Road, 479-3796  
Worship: 10-11, Child Care, Fellowship

#### Two Rivers Baptist Church

21.5 Mile Chena Hot Sp. Rd.  
Services: 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday Mid-week 7:30 p.m.

#### Christian & Missionary Alliance Church

Meeting at the Evangelical Covenant Church  
10th & Lathrop, Services: 3:00 p.m.  
Sunday School: 2:00 p.m., Phone 372-3359

#### Grace Baptist Church (Independent)

Karl W. Sapp, Pastor, 457-2712  
"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt  
be saved" Acts 16:31

#### Christ Lutheran Church (L.C.A.)

7.6 Mile Farmers Loop Rd. & Iniakuk Ave.  
Summer Sched: 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. June-Aug.

### NENANA AREA

#### St. Theresa's Catholic Church

Nenana, Alaska, Phone 832-5617  
Sunday Mass: 5:00 p.m.

### HEALY AREA

#### Valley Chapel

249 Mile Parks Hwy., 683-2303  
Healy, AK, Pastor J.D. Duncan

#### Holy Mary Guadalupe Catholic Church

Healy, Alaska, Phone 683-2535  
Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m.

## Troopers gear up for SOME run

ANCHORAGE—Alaska State Troopers are gearing up for their sixth annual 1,000 mile SOME run to benefit the Alaska Special Olympics Program.

Twenty-two state troopers and fish and wildlife troopers are competing for a position on the 12-man team that will run from Homer to Fairbanks and back to Anchorage.

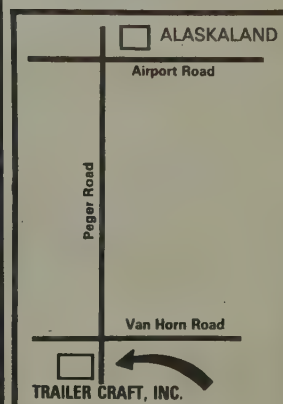
The run was begun in 1979 as a way to help fund the special olympics, said Paul Edscorn, a trooper spokesman.

Since then, the supporters have pledged \$300,000 through the event, with more than \$50,000 raised for the 1984 run, he said.



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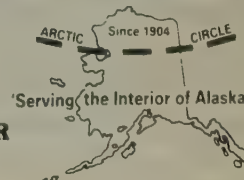
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# Mountain just one of park's wonders

(Continued from page 57)

may be picked up only for the next available bus.

The roundtrip journey between Riley Creek and Wonder Lake takes 10 hours and the roundtrip journey between Riley Creek and Eielson Visitor Center takes 7½ hours. Visitors are welcome to get off and on any shuttlebus anywhere along the park road on a space-available basis. Pack up plenty of food for the trip since none is available beyond the park entrance area.

The shuttlebus system is in effect through Sept. 15.

NOTE: A shuttlebus accessible to wheelchair users will leave Riley Creek daily. Check in the information center for scheduled times.

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS WITHIN DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Staying under a solid roof at Denali National Park and Preserve is usually more difficult than sleeping under the stars—most hotels are booked solid throughout the season. Some cancellations do occur though, so dial the numbers listed below.

Also check out the hotels located just outside the park entrance (they are listed in the *Alpenglow*).

If no space is available, try the Youth Hostel located down the railroad tracks from the post office. For \$2 per night, the hosteler receives a night on a bunk in a defunct train car. Inquire within Riley Creek Information Center for further information about the hostel.

The Denali Park Hotel (683-2215) is the only hotel located at the east end of the park. Hotels located 100 miles west of the park entrance are North Face Lodge (683-2265), Camp Denali (683-2290) and the Kantishna Roadhouse (radio phone 345-1160 WQH 23).



Kahiltna Glacier (with Mt. McKinley in the background) is a stepping-off place for many expeditions to

McKinley.

(News-Miner file photo)

## Be patient and remember: the mountain is fickle

By MARK A. COSSON  
Correspondent

Denali National Park: "Where is Mount McKinley?" This is a question I am all too familiar with. We have an average of close to 250,000 people visit Denali National Park each summer and they all come to see the elusive Mount McKinley and the wildlife.

Out at Mile 65 of the park road and just 33 miles from the summit of McKinley is the Eielson Visitor Center where I spend my summers

working as a National Park Service maintenance person. I frequently come in contact with visitors who travel thousands of miles to see McKinley, only to find it hiding in the clouds.

"We're from Council Bluffs, Iowa, and have come all this way to see Mount McKinley. Could you point it out to us?" said a nice middle-aged man with his wife by his side. With much regret, I inform them the "mountain" is not visible today but that they can see a wall-

sized photo of it inside the visitor center.

"When do ya think it'll come out?" he asks. "Well sir," I thought for a few seconds, "I'd rack my brain trying to figure that one out and believe me, I get to see the mountain more than anybody else does from this vantage point, and it looks to me that it won't be out today, but you never know!"

I really feel sorry for the many folks I tell this over and over to, but I also tell them that this park was created for the wildlife and that the mountain just happened to be here also. So I ask them what kind of wildlife they saw on the bus ride here. That always brings a sparkle in their eyes as they explain to me all the caribou, moose, dall sheep and grizzlies they saw. They seem to forget about McKinley for awhile.

Inside the Eielson Visitor Center, the staff keeps a large calendar recording the visibility of the mountain.

This calendar is on display for the visitors to view and from time to time the visitors get to "fill in" the blocks as they try to see McKinley between the clouds.

Here are some samples of what's written down on the individual calendar days when the mountain is not visible: "White Fog," "What Mountain?" "75 percent visible," "Socked in," "Fog Rain Clouds," "Gloom," "Bummer," and on and on.

When the mountain is visible, we get comments like this: "Hard to Believe," "Far Out," "Incredible," "Intense sunshine on a cloudless day," or "Oh, what a morning!"

For some reason we get fewer comments on the calendar when the mountain is out rather than when the mountain is not out. Most people are too awestruck when it is visible for any negative comment.

These are the visibility statistics for June, July, August and the first half of September 1984:

June: Morning—15 out of 30 days; Noon—6 out of 30 days; Even-

ing—6 out of 30 days.

July: Morning—4 out of 31 days; Noon—2 out of 31 days; Evening—1 out of 31 days.

August: Morning—12 out of 31 days; Noon—10 out of 31 days; Evening—4 out of 31 days.

September: Morning—12 out of 13 days; Noon—11 out of 13 days; Evening—4 out of 13 days.

As you can see, July wasn't a good month. These statistics only show when the mountain was fully visible. Our records also show that it snowed on the first and second of June, the 19th, 25th and the 26th of August at the visitor center.



Denali National Park is accessible both by highway and railroad.



Campers enjoy the great outdoors and catch a glimpse of Mt. McKinley



# And Denali's not the only park

Seven of the 15 federally designated parks, preserves or monuments in Alaska are found in the Interior and Arctic Alaska. Information on how to reach these diverse areas (other than Denali National Park and Preserve) follows:

**Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve**—This 8.2 million-acre expanse lies in the Central Brooks Range. It's diverse lands range from the boreal forest of Alaska's Interior on the south side to the edge of a polar desert on the north. Access: Scheduled flights from Fairbanks serve Bettles/Evansville, where flights to the Gates of the Arctic can be arranged. For more information, write P.O. Box 74680, Fairbanks, AK 99707 or call 907-456-0281.

**Noatak National Preserve**—The "Grand Canyon," created by the 425-mile long Noatak River, is one of the most spectacular features of this preserve. Backpackers and rafters seasonally enjoy the canyon via the Noatak River, which winds through a good portion of the 6.5 million-acre area. Access: Visitors may take flights from Fairbanks and Anchorage to Kotzebue and Bettles/Evansville, where chartered flights to Noatak can be arranged. For more information write P.O. Box 287, Kotzebue, AK 99752 or call 907-442-3890.

**Kobuk Valley National Park**—The largest active dune field in Arctic latitudes can be found within this 1.7 million-acre park. Temperatures can reach 100 degrees on the Great Kobuk Sand Dunes, which stretch for over 25 square miles through the park. On the cooler side, the Kobuk and Salmon Rivers offer easy canoeing and kayaking. Access: Two airlines offer jet service from Anchorage and Fairbanks to Kotzebue. From there, scheduled air service is available to nearby villages, where local air and boat charter is available by



Scene shows the north fork of the Koyukuk River.

(Photo by M. Standley)

advance arrangement. For more information, write P.O. Box 287, Kotzebue, AK 99752 or call 907-442-3890.

**Bering Land Bridge National Preserve**—According to a national park service publication, this 2.5 million-acre preserve is a remnant of the land bridge that connected Asia with North America more than 13,000 years ago. The land bridge itself is presently covered by the Chukchi Sea and the Bering Sea. Many people believe this is the area where Asian hunters first entered the New World. Access: Air service out of Nome and Kotzebue is the usual means of transportation to this isolated area. For more information, write P.O. Box 220,

Nome, AK 99752 or call 907-443-2522. **Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve**—Floating the Yukon River is a popular way to view this 2.2 million-acre preserve in the summer. All together, 115 miles of the Yukon River and the entire 88 miles of the Charley River are included within the preserve boundaries. In the winter, the Yukon River provides the trail for Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Racers as they hurry through the preserve during their race between Fairbanks and Whitehorse, Y.T. Access: Visitors can drive to parts of the preserve by taking Taylor Highway to Eagle or by taking Steese Highway from Fairbanks to Circle. For more information, write P.O. Box 64, Eagle, AK 99738 or call 907-547-2233.

**Cape Krusenstern National Monument**—More than 5,000 years of

marine mammal hunting by Eskimo people is chronologically contained within the beaches of this 540,000-acre expanse. These archeological records are locked in 114 lateral beach ridges contained within the monument. Access:

Visitors can arrange to fly from Fairbanks or Anchorage to Kotzebue, where they can board chartered aircraft and boats leaving for the monument. For more information, write P.O. Box 287, Kotzebue, AK 99752 or call 907-442-3890.

## Police patrolling on bicycles

ANCHORAGE (AP)—Anchorage police are using pedal power to patrol miles of city bicycle paths off-limits to larger vehicles.

For the past three weeks, pairs of officers using abandoned or unclaimed bicycles from police storage have taken to the paths in the evening and early morning hours.

"This is the time when molesters, muggers, all kinds of bad guys come out to prey on people out here," said officer Rick Giles. "If

we're out here, maybe we can catch some of them."

The bicycle patrol was the idea of Cpl. Gary Apperson. The patrols were done on a trial basis last summer, and were met with an enthusiastic response from police officials and many joggers and bicyclists who regularly use the often secluded paths.

"I like the high visibility for our officers out there," said Lt. Kevin O'Leary, patrol shift supervisor. "People want security out there, and it's a deterrent to lots of potential offenders when they know an officer could be out there watching."

On patrol, one officer wears his police uniform and the other dresses in civilian clothes.



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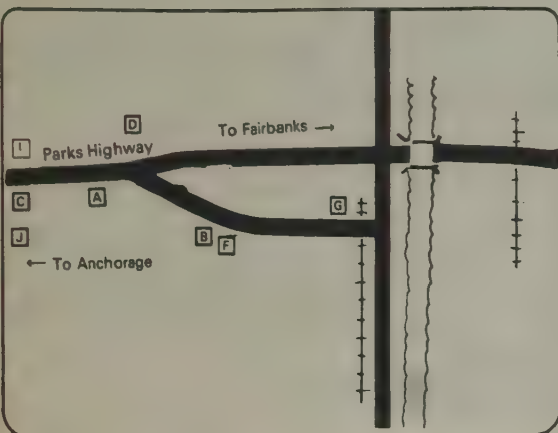
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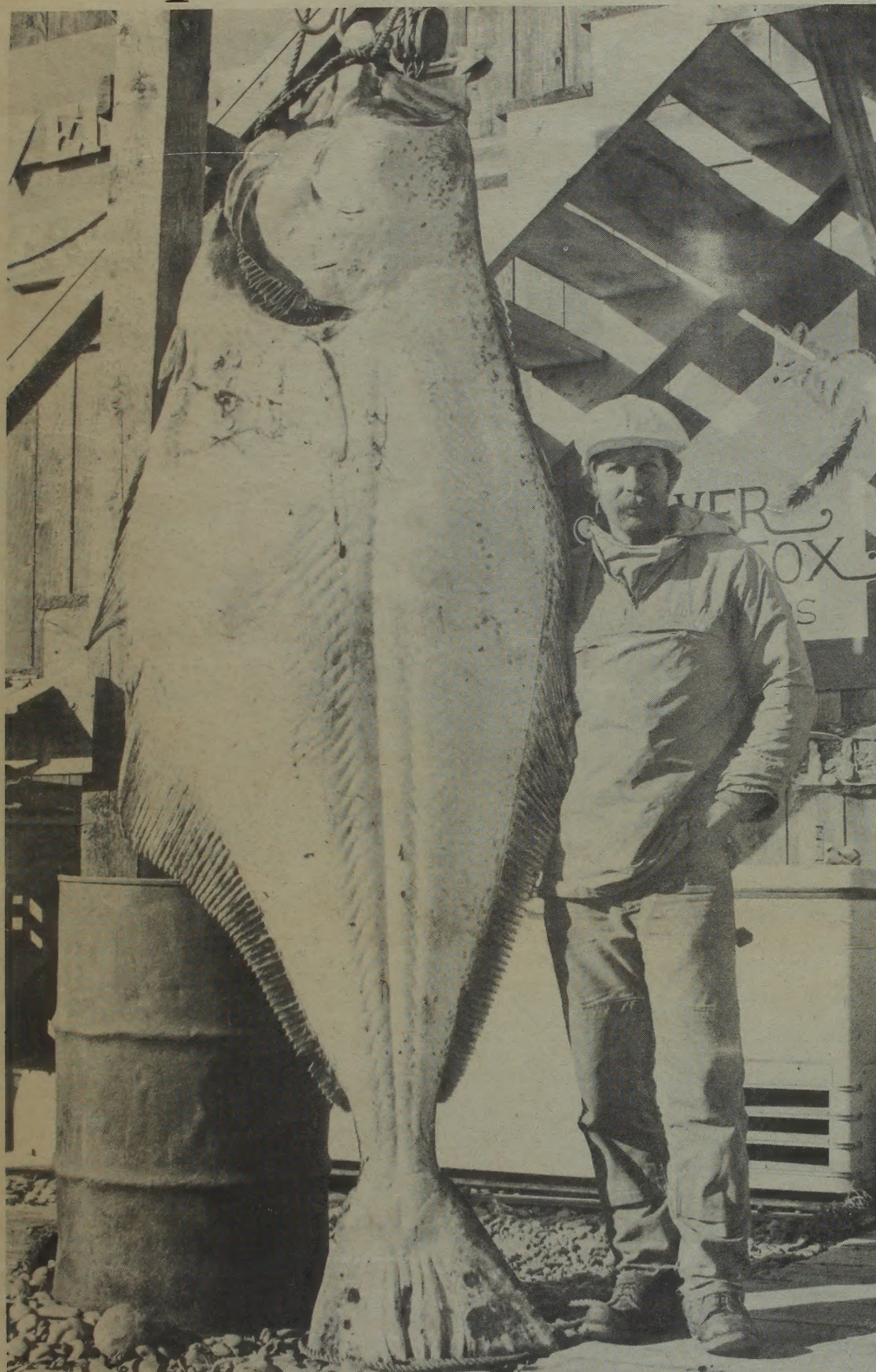


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# Harpoons, bullets help land 'monster'



**"BARN DOOR"**—James Bostrom of Homer says his 374-pound halibut "was huge and it looked even bigger in the water." The behemoth was 99¼ inches long, 73 inches around and practically filled Joe Kennedy's 24-foot aluminum skiff.

(Photo by Gail Parsons)

## HAIR SALON

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## Homer man says it felt 'like I hooked bottom'

By STEVE RINEHART  
Homer News

**HOMER**—She felt like the bottom and she broke the harpoon line, but when the fight was over, James Bostrom and his fishing partners had hauled all 374 pounds of her over the side.

That's a bigger halibut than has ever been entered in the Homer Halibut Derby, and it's bigger than the largest fish listed with the state's trophy fish program last year. It's shy of the 440-pound state record, but it was "a monster of a fish," Bostrom said.

"It was huge and it looked even bigger in the water," he said. "It strained my line and pole right to the limit."

When he finally got a look at her, he thought she might go about 200 pounds, but she tipped the Silver Fox certified scales at 374. The behemoth was 99¼ inches long, 73 inches around and practically filled Joe Kennedy's 24-foot aluminum skiff.

"I've been fishin' for five years trying to break a hundred (pounds)," said the 40-year-old Homer resident.

Bostrom and Bruce Warner were fishing from Warner's 21-foot Glasply. Alongside was Kennedy and his partner, Mark Warner. Both boats were about 35 miles out and were "close enough to (the Augustine Island volcano) to see it smoking," Warner said.

Bostrom said he was using a circle hook and dangling a chunk of old, freezer-burned Dolly Varden in about 140 feet of water.

"It felt like I hooked the bottom," he said.

An hour or so later, Bostrom finally winched the fish up close enough to get a look. "I knew then we were in trouble," he said. "It was just too big to bring into my boat."

Pole in hand, Bostrom hopped into Kennedy's larger skiff.

Bostrom again hauled the fish to the surface. Kennedy harpooned it. The fish exploded, tearing away from the skiff in a mad frenzy. When it reached the end of the harpoon rope, it snapped the quarter-inch cord and continued on until it had exhausted almost all of the line on Bostrom's reel.

The fish was hooked solidly in the jaw, Bostrom said.

Kennedy tied a spear harpoon to a heavy line. As Bostrom pulled the halibut up a third time, Kennedy sent the point home.

Bostrom, "a pole in one hand and a gun in the other," dispatched the beast with five shots from Warner's .22 magnum pistol.

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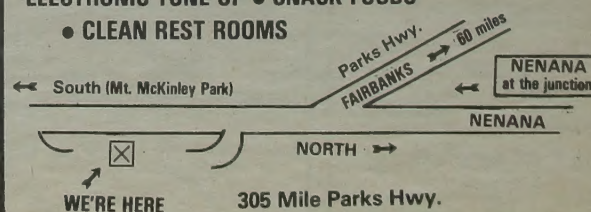
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# Whitewater canoeist lets river do work

By FRED PRATT  
Correspondent

The first time taking a canoe through heavy water can be a sobering experience.

Hidden currents grab the boat and throw it toward the biggest rocks. Eddies spin you into deep holes and waves always seem to break right over the gunwales. After 10 minutes your arms and shoulders ache from fighting a river that always seems to be pulling you into greater peril.

During my own rude introduction to this sport a decade ago I quickly

The whitewater veteran sits placidly amidst a churning chaos of water. His paddle moves slowly in a quiet stirring motion, rarely coming out of the water. The boat sits sideways, moving smoothly back and forth across the stream.

realized there must be something I didn't know. After watching my more experienced friends, I saw the answer.

Most of my whitewater canoeing buddies are lazy rascals.

They don't fit your image of the hardened canoe voyageurs. They don't portage boats over mountain passes. Most have a healthy thickening around the waist from the good life. They're very different from my canoe racing friends, who spend most of their free time emulating Evinrudes.

The whitewater veteran sits placidly amidst a churning chaos of water. His paddle moves slowly in a quiet stirring motion, rarely coming out of the water. The boat sits sideways, moving smoothly back



In fast water you can carve through a turn by leaning the boat over on its side, much like a skier cuts through

snow.

(Photo by Fred Pratt)

and forth across the stream.

That's the secret; let the river do the work for you.

Whitewater canoeing is not a sport of strength. When your muscles scream, they're trying to tell

you that you're doing something wrong.

My women canoeing friends seem to pick this up much more quickly, perhaps because they're less inclined to solve problems with brute power.

Successful and safe canoeing breaks down to placing the boat in the right current and bracing it to absorb the bumps. It requires practice, and a fresh look at what you're doing.

A canoe sits in the water, not on it. The boat displaces a couple inches of water over an area five yards long by a yard wide. You have to push all that water out of the way when you move the boat, so

don't move it unless you have to. Be lazy.

In a steep section the canoe goes considerably faster than the current, although that's not apparent at first. Compare your speed to a stick floating beside you and you'll see it's true.

In fast water you can carve through a turn by leaning the boat over on its side, much like a skier cuts through snow. If you're really lazy, heel it over and bang the bottom against the waves. That keeps the wave from sloshing over the side and it makes the river turn the boat for you.

With that in mind, let's take a closer look at the river.

That first enlightening run down

(Continued on page 63)

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# Here's lazy man's guide to whitewater canoeing

(Continued from page 62)

fast water has one key lesson: the river moves in more directions than a city league hockey team. Sometimes the eddies in a rocky section are so wild it seems like more water is going uphill than down.

But, like anything else, there are general patterns.

The current on the outside of a turn is the fastest, tracking in a fairly smooth line around the shore. On the inside of the turn the current forms an eddy, hooking toward shore and circling back upstream.

You don't want to be too far on the

outside of the bend because the current undermines the bank and leaves bushes and trees reaching into the river.

You don't want to be too far to the inside of the turn either, because the eddy will catch your bow and jerk it into shore. At best you'll suffer an embarrassing detour: sometimes it will flip the boat.

The lazy paddler puts his boat sideways in the middle of the stream. That way it's easy to move it back and forth across the currents.

If a sweeper reaches out from the outer bank, a single paddle stroke

moves the boat away. The eddy can't pull the boat around unless you move into it on purpose.

The lazy canoeist closely reads the river currents. With a little practice you can even feel the currents pulling on the boat and tugging at your paddle. A few years ago I ran across a term I like from Australian riverboatmen. They call this feeling, "Let your blood flow with the river."

A beginner can learn to read water without even getting wet. Just walking along the Chena River through town is a good start.

To study some good eddy lines,

try the dock at Alaskaland. To see how bars build up in a turn and churn up currents, look at the south bank between the Wendell Street bridge and Griffin Park.

The canoe rides best at an angle because it will float over waves better and you won't have to crank it around to move across the river. However, you don't want to do this in a boulder garden. Pulling boats off rocks is hard work.

When the river runs through a patch of boulders you'll find an eddy behind every rock. Watch how the water breaks around the rock and take the side with the best flow. It takes more work to get into that current going the other way.

I like to hug the rock tightly and turn into the downstream eddy as I pass it. This slows the boat and gives a chance to look over the water ahead.

## Forget that jargon—grab a paddle

So what do you do with the paddle?

Expert canoeists hide this secret behind a fog of jargon. They talk of draw strokes, pry strokes, sweep strokes, J strokes, C strokes, high braces, low braces and sculling strokes. They make computer hackers sound like models of clarity.

But the secret is buried in their lazy souls. All they're doing is bracing for the bumps and moving the boat around a little.

About the only thing that takes a lot of practice is the backstroke. Turn about 30 degrees to one side, then you can reach across to both

sides of the boat without changing your grip on the paddle. This slows the boat down and allows you to use the current to ferry it across the river when it's angled right.

A whitewater paddle is long and beefy. It's long because you'll need to reach way out in front or behind during tight turns. Its blade is wide so it can grab enough water even in shallow spots. The blade is large because you want to do as much work as you can without taking it out of the water.

It's strong and a bit stiff because you'll be hanging everything on it. The lazy paddler doesn't use it much, but when he does, he needs to

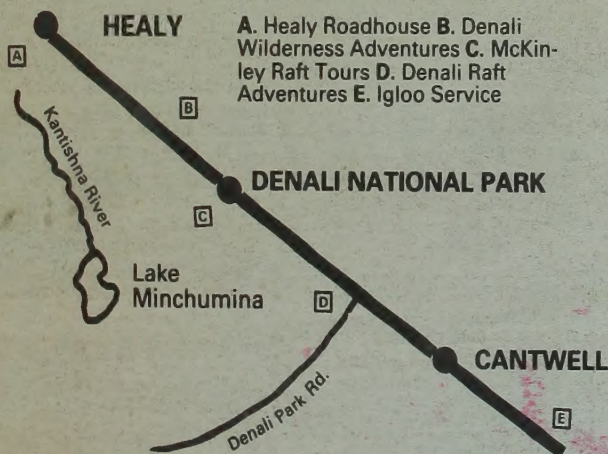
see some action.

I usually carry two whitewater paddles, in case I lose one, plus one or two light conventional paddles with smaller blades for lazy paddling in quiet water. A good whitewater paddle costs about \$75.

But you can't put the power from that paddle to work if you're sliding around all over the bottom of the boat.

Gluing a kneeling pad on the floor gives you that control. I like to move around a lot, so I covered the whole floor and most of the side of my boat between the seat and center thwart with closed-cell foam.

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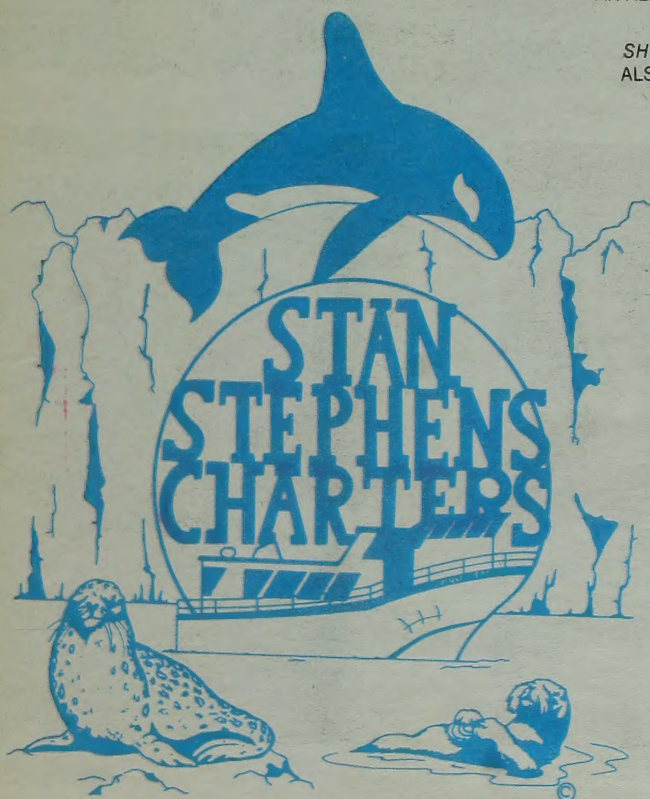


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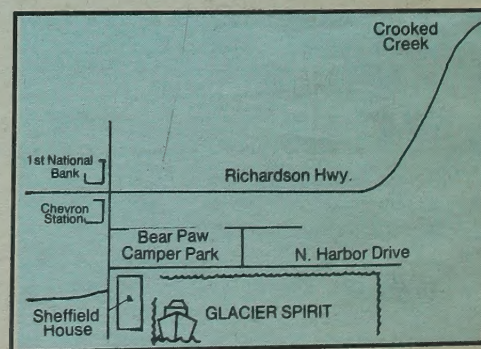
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